KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ROADS and VEHICLES

NUMBER 27

VEHICLES OF THE MIDDLE AGES

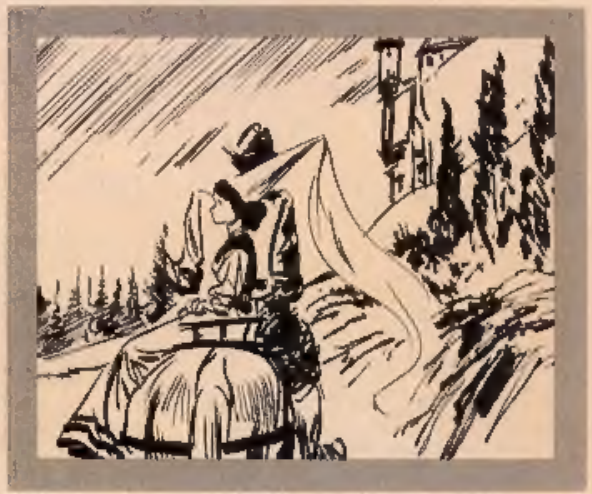
This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

The Anglo-Saxon Hammock wagon was used to transport invalids. To brake on hills, chains kept the wheels from turning.

Normans used a horse-litter for carrying the wounded. The bed or chain was carried on two long poles, and was curtained off.

The 14th century horse-litter was used to carry enthroned royalty in processions. It was top-heavy, and very risky to ride.

Noblewomen rode in a Whirlicote. Horses were hitched in line. The sticks in back braked the wagon while the horses rested.



When women of this period traveled on horseback, they sat on Pillions. These were small side-seats mounted behind the saddles.

GOLD KEY

SOLAR

STILL ONLY 12¢

DOCTOR SOLAR

MAN OF THE ATOM

10000-410
OCTOBER

Solar meets his match—a power-hungry machine that devours everything in sight!

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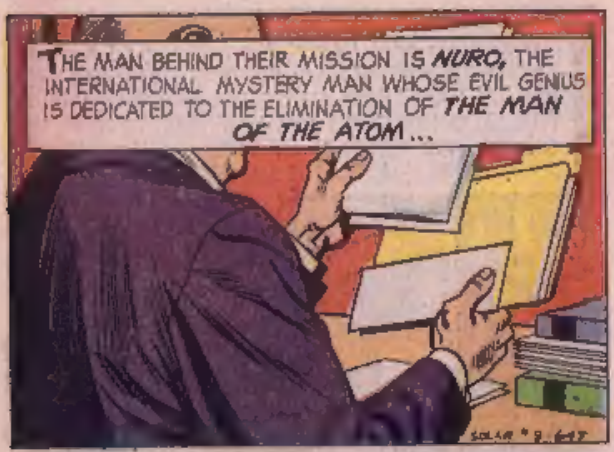
CAREFULLY CONCEALED IN THE RUGGED ESTORILLIAN MOUNTAINS IS A TOP-SECRET AIR FORCE COMPUTER CENTER WHERE ALFRED HENDERS, AMERICA'S TOP COMPUTER EXPERT, IS AT WORK FORGING THE LAST LINKS IN OUR EARLY WARNING SYSTEM!

BUT HIS WORK IS ABOUT TO BE INTERRUPTED!

UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, TWO MEN WORK QUIETLY, CAREFULLY, TO CUT THROUGH THE BARBED WIRE THAT SURROUNDS THE SMALL BUT VITALLY-IMPORTANT COMPOUND! THEIR MISSION: TO ABDUCT HENDERS AND INVOLVE HIM IN A BIZARRE SCHEME TO EXPOSE AND DESTROY *THE MAN OF THE ATOM* WITH...

TRANSIVAC *the* ENERGY-CONSUMING COMPUTER


THE MAN BEHIND THEIR MISSION IS *NURO*, THE INTERNATIONAL MYSTERY MAN WHOSE EVIL GENIUS IS DEDICATED TO THE ELIMINATION OF *THE MAN OF THE ATOM*...

THANKS TO NURO'S CAREFUL PLANNING, THE TWO MEN ENTER THE BASE UNSEEN AT A TIME WHEN THE COMPUTER EXPERT IS ALONE AND UNGUARDED..

POSTMASTER: Please send notice on Form 3579 to K.K. Publications, Inc., Poughkeepsie, New York.
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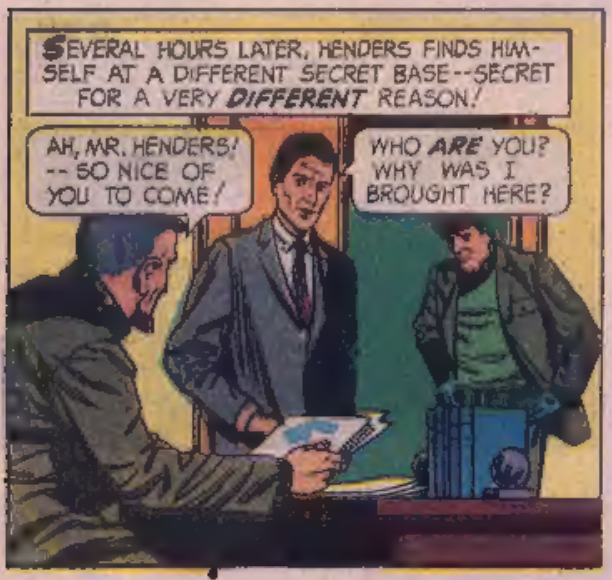
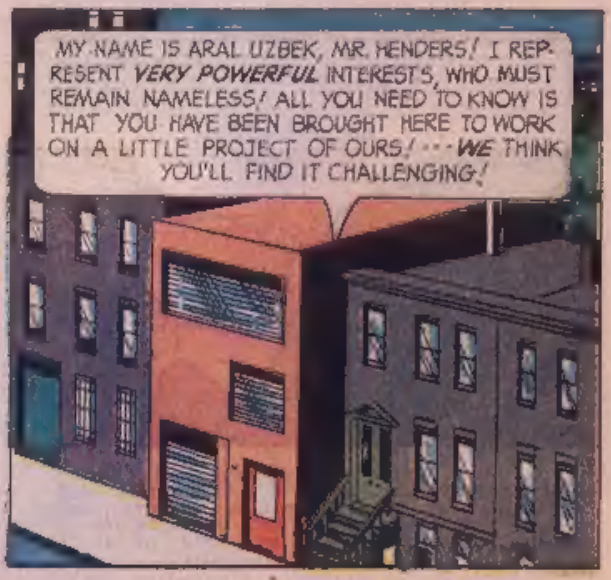
CHANGE OF ADDRESS should reach us four weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

IT WAS A CINCH--- SHOWS YOU WHAT A LITTLE PLANNING CAN DO!
WE'RE NOT OUT OF THIS YET! LET'S MAKE SURE THIS IS THE MAN WE WANT!

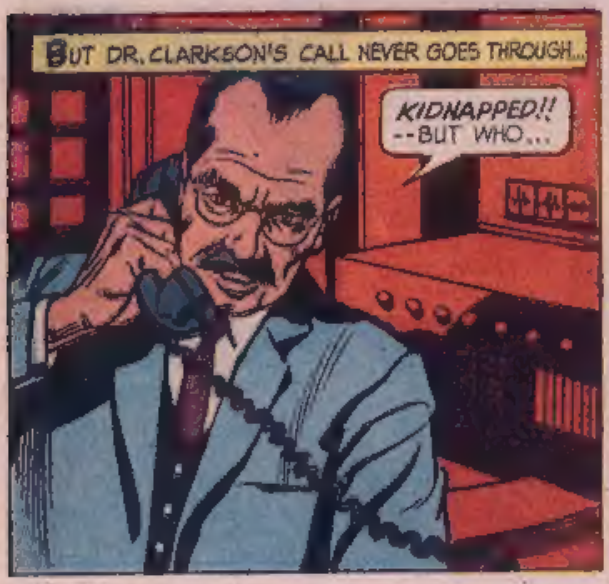
PARDON ME, BUT ARE YOU ALFRED HENDERS?
WHY, YES! WHO ARE YOU? --- WHERE'S YOUR IDENTIFICATION BADGE?

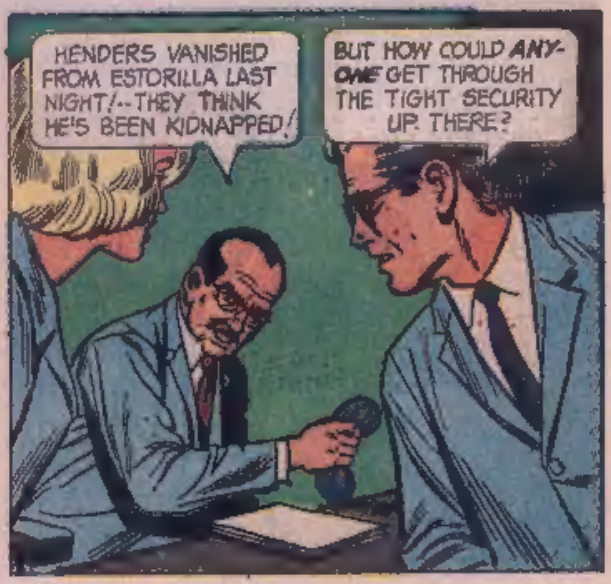
THIS WILL IDENTIFY US!
OWWW!

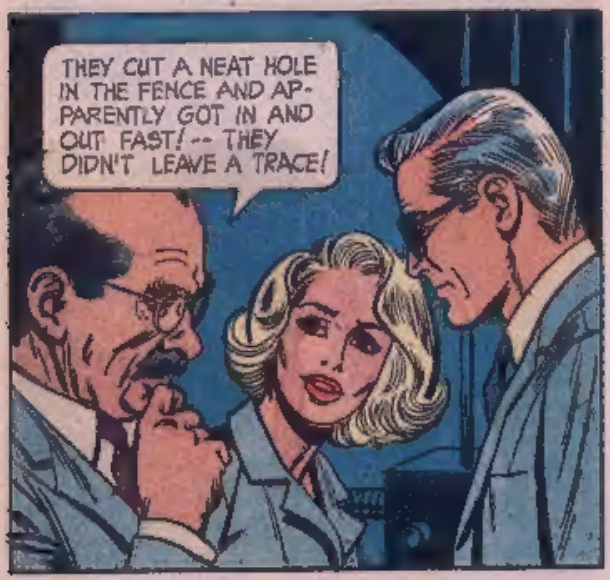

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, HENDERS FINDS HIMSELF AT A DIFFERENT SECRET BASE--SECRET FOR A VERY DIFFERENT REASON!
AH, MR. HENDERS! -- SO NICE OF YOU TO COME!
WHO ARE YOU? WHY WAS I BROUGHT HERE?


MY NAME IS ARAL UZBEK, MR. HENDERS! I REPRESENT VERY POWERFUL INTERESTS, WHO MUST REMAIN NAMELESS! ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BROUGHT HERE TO WORK ON A LITTLE PROJECT OF OURS! --- WE THINK YOU'LL FIND IT CHALLENGING!

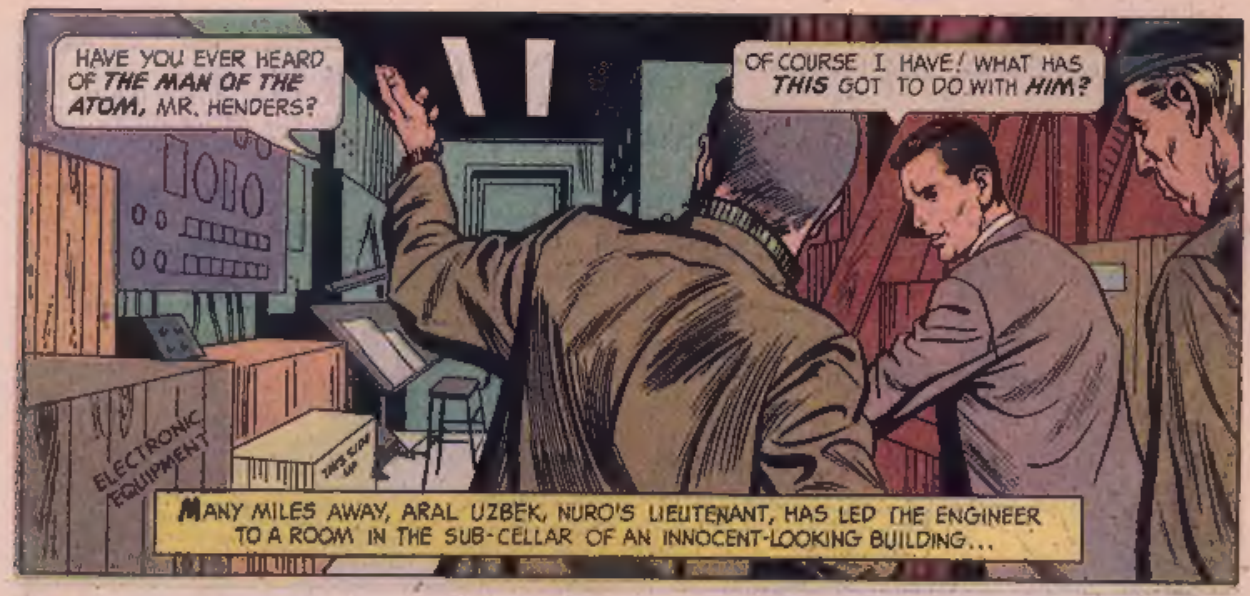
MEANWHILE, HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY AT ATOM VALLEY...
DR. CLARKSON, BEFORE WE CAN BEGIN WORKING ON LASER-WEAPONRY, WE'RE GOING TO NEED NEW COMPUTERS!
THAT'S RIGHT! ALFRED HENDERS IS WORKING UP AT ESTORILLA RIGHT NOW, BUT HE'S NEARLY FINISHED WITH HIS AIR FORCE PROJECT! I'LL CALL HIM...


BUT DR. CLARKSON'S CALL NEVER GOES THROUGH...
KIDNAPPED!! --BUT WHO...


HENDERS VANISHED FROM ESTORILLA LAST NIGHT!--THEY THINK HE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED!
BUT HOW COULD ANY-ONE GET THROUGH THE TIGHT SECURITY UP THERE?


THEY CUT A NEAT HOLE IN THE FENCE AND AP-PARENTLY GOT IN AND OUT FAST! -- THEY DIDN'T LEAVE A TRACE!

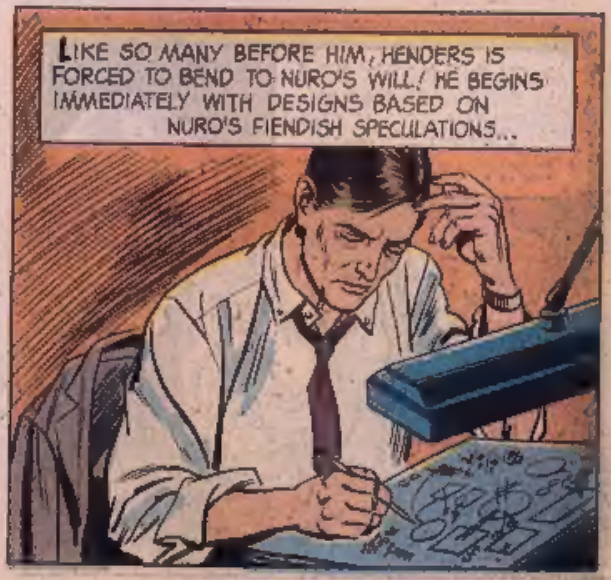
HE WAS WORKING ON AN IMPORTANT PROJECT! IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY HE WAS KIDNAPPED-- BUT WHO WOULD DO IT?

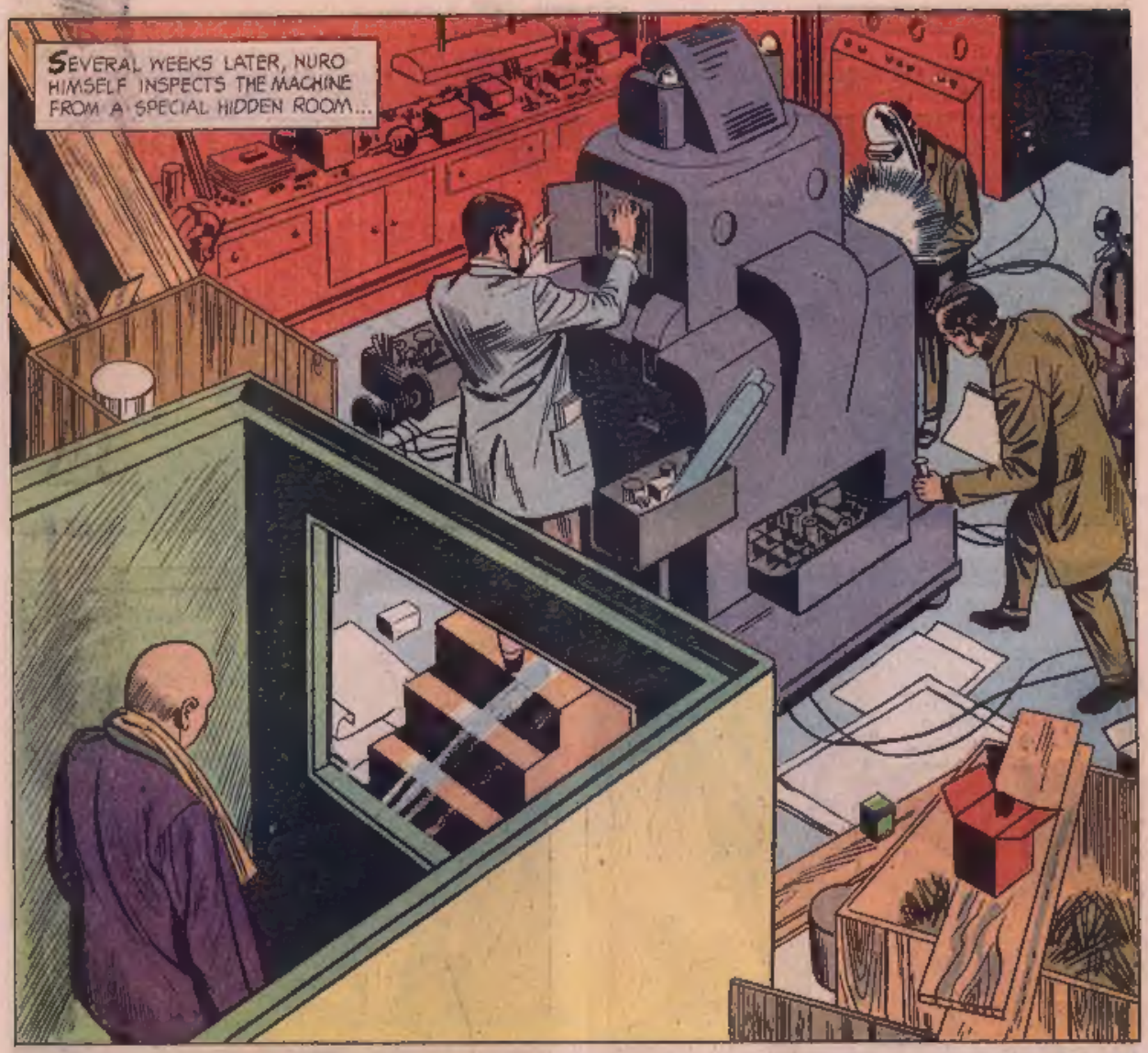

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE MAN OF THE ATOM, MR. HENDERS?
OF COURSE I HAVE! WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH HIM?
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
MANY MILES AWAY, ARAL UZBEK, NURO'S LIEUTENANT, HAS LED THE ENGINEER TO A ROOM IN THE SUB-CELLAR OF AN INNOCENT-LOOKING BUILDING...

YOU ARE GOING TO BUILD AN ELECTRONIC COMPUTER TO HELP US DESTROY HIM!
MY WORD, NO! I COULDN'T HARM ANYONE!

NEED I REMIND YOU, MR. HENDERS, THAT YOU ARE OUR PRISONER HERE? MILLIONS OF LIVES DEPEND ON YOUR AIR FORCE PROJECT AND YOU'RE NO HELP TO THEM WHILE YOU'RE HERE!

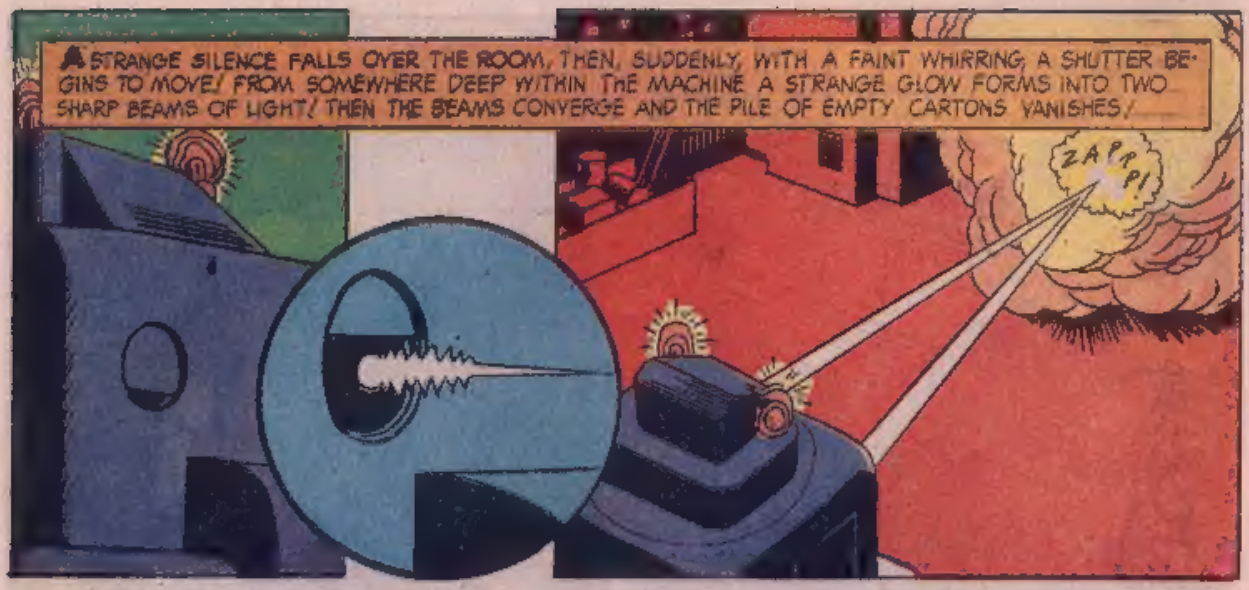
YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR PRECIOUS PROJECT AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED HERE---BUT NOT BEFORE!

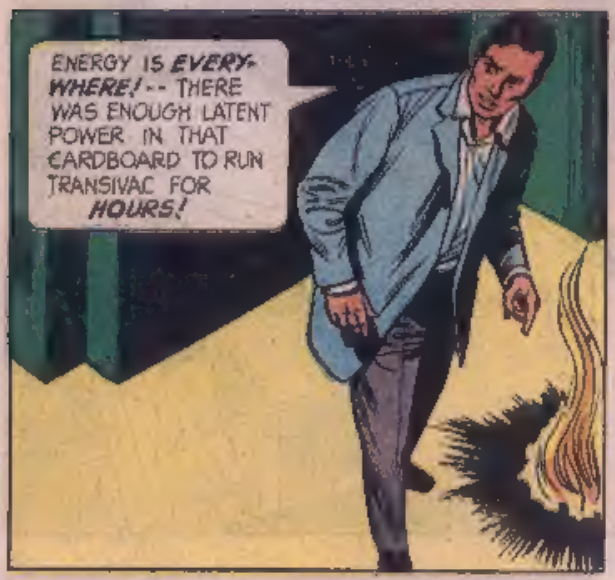

LIKE SO MANY BEFORE HIM, HENDERS IS FORCED TO BEND TO NURO'S WILL! HE BEGINS IMMEDIATELY WITH DESIGNS BASED ON NURO'S FIENDISH SPECULATIONS...


SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, NURO HIMSELF INSPECTS THE MACHINE FROM A SPECIAL HIDDEN ROOM...

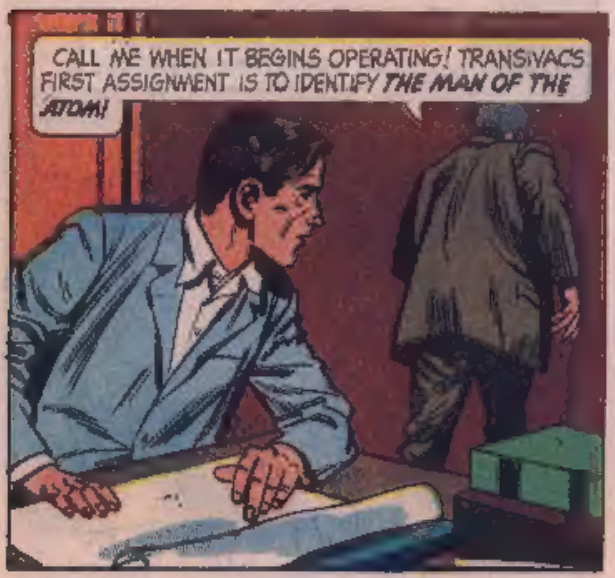
THIS CALCULATOR WILL DO *EVERYTHING* YOU SAID YOU WANTED OF IT!--AND MORE! WE HAD A PROBLEM PROVIDING ENOUGH POWER TO OPERATE IT, BUT I THINK WE'VE SOLVED IT PERFECTLY!

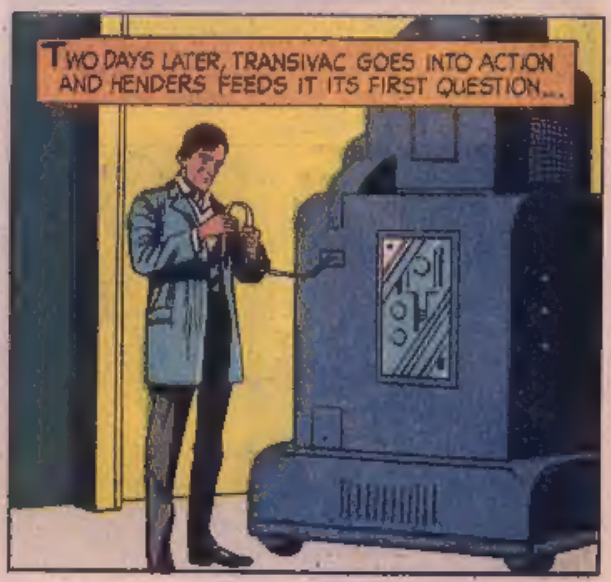
IT CAN BE FUELED BY *ANYTHING*--WATCH!


A STRANGE SILENCE FALLS OVER THE ROOM, THEN, SUDDENLY, WITH A FAINT WHIRRING, A SHUTTER BEGINS TO MOVE! FROM SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN THE MACHINE A STRANGE GLOW FORMS INTO TWO SHARP BEAMS OF LIGHT! THEN THE BEAMS CONVERGE AND THE PILE OF EMPTY CARTONS VANISHES!
ZAP P P!


ENERGY IS EVERYWHERE! -- THERE WAS ENOUGH LATENT POWER IN THAT CARDBOARD TO RUN TRANSIVAC FOR HOURS!

TRANSIVAC?
YES, THAT'S MY NAME FOR THIS MACHINE! -- IT'S AN UNUSUAL COMBINATION OF SEVERAL LESSER ELECTRONIC BRAINS!


CALL ME WHEN IT BEGINS OPERATING! TRANSIVACS FIRST ASSIGNMENT IS TO IDENTIFY THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

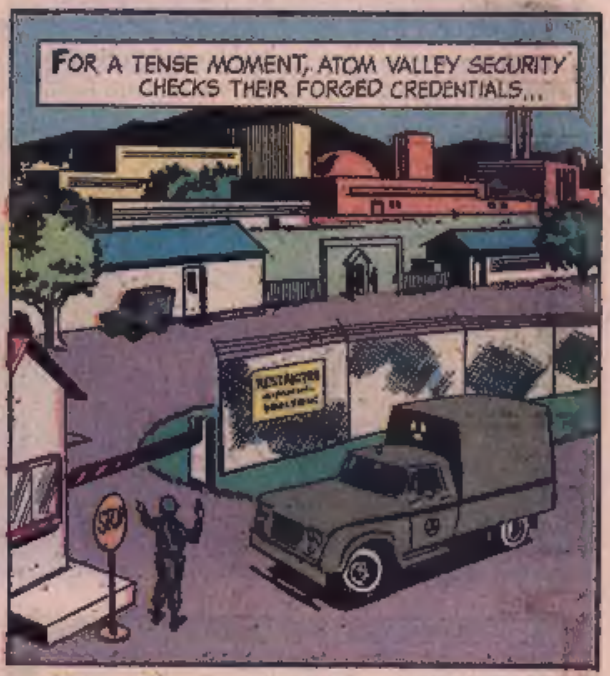

TWO DAYS LATER, TRANSIVAC GOES INTO ACTION AND HENDERS FEEDS IT ITS FIRST QUESTION...

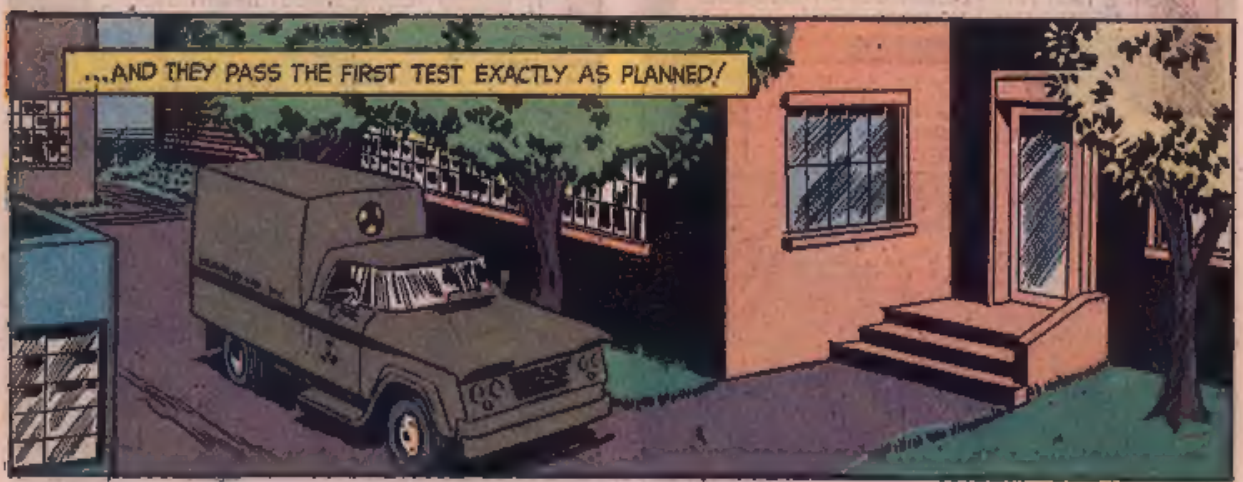
WITHIN SECONDS, THE COMPUTER GIVES ITS ANSWER..
"THE MAN OF THE ATOM IS UNKNOWN..."
HMMM, THE MACHINE DOESN'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN WE DO! WE'LL HAVE TO FEED IT NEW INFORMATION...
ALL THAT DAY, AND INTO THE NEXT, HENDERS RECORDS ALL THE KNOWN INFORMATION ON THE MAN OF THE ATOM! EVERY DETAIL BECOMES A PART OF TRANSIVAC'S FANTASTIC MEMORY!
--AND WHEN THE LAST DETAIL HAS BEEN STORED AWAY FOR INSTANT RECALL, UZBEK APPEARS WITH FURTHER ORDERS...
NOW YOUR MACHINE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL ME HOW TO CAPTURE THE MAN OF THE ATOM!"
ONCE AGAIN THE AMAZING MACHINE SPRINGS TO LIFE! THIS TIME, UZBEK GETS THE ANSWER HE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR!
TRANSIVAC SAYS GAIL SANDERS IS THE KEY-- GET HER AND YOU'LL GET HIM---
HERE ARE THE DETAILS OF THE PLAN!-- IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE IT MIGHT WORK!

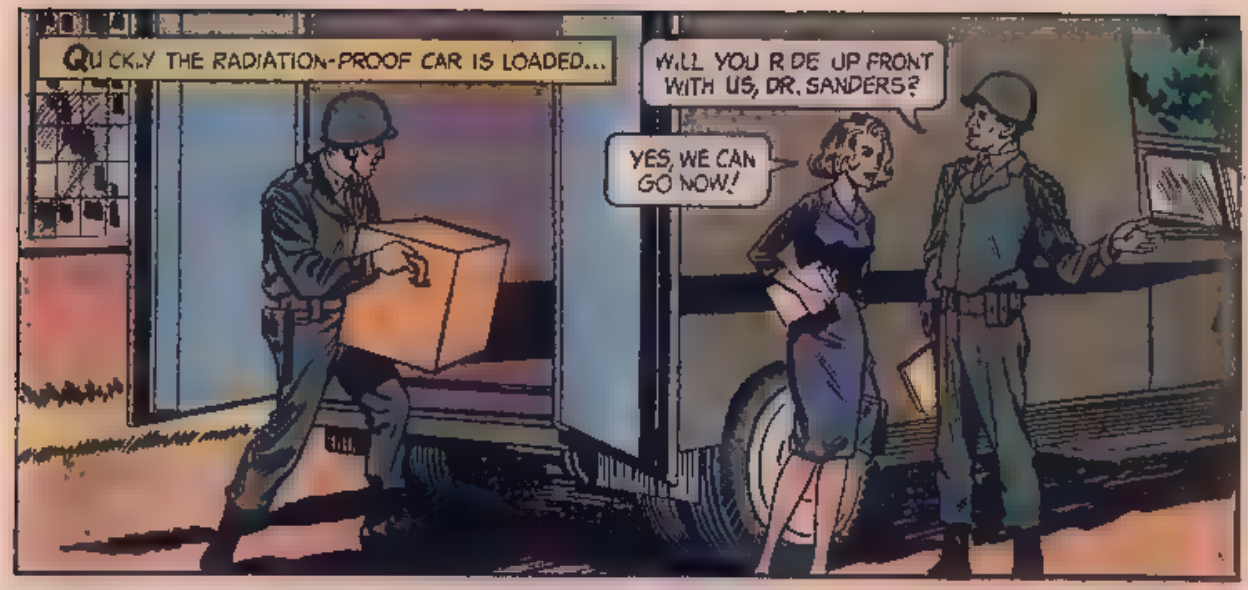
MIGHT WORK?
YES! I CAN'T SEE HOW HE COULD POSSIBLY ESCAPE, BUT EVEN THE BEST ELECTRONIC BRAIN EVER BUILT CAN'T RECKON WITH THE HUMAN FACTOR!

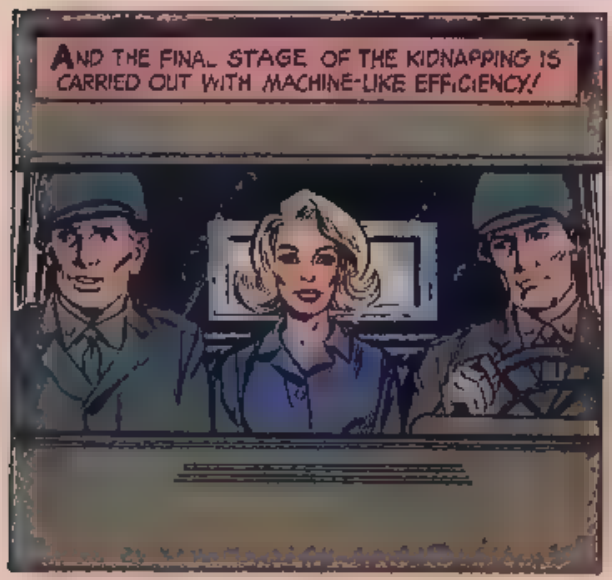
NEXT MORNING, A TELEGRAM ARRIVES AT ATOM VALLEY...
"URGENTLY NEED ISOTOPES LISTED BELOW FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL USE. ARMORED CAR ALREADY DISPATCHED. WOULD APPRECIATE A.V. EXPERT TO ACCOMPANY SHIPMENT. KARLTON, MEDICAL CORPS."
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING FOR A LITTLE RIDE!

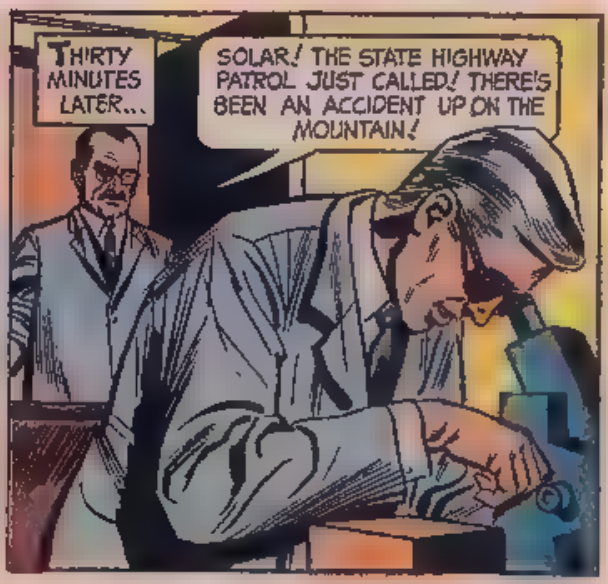
AND AT THE SAME TIME...
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL FOOL THOSE GUARDS? --I HEAR THEY'RE TOUGH!
RELAX! EVERY ANGLE OF THIS JOB HAS BEEN FIGURED BY SOME ELECTRONIC BRAIN! --WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

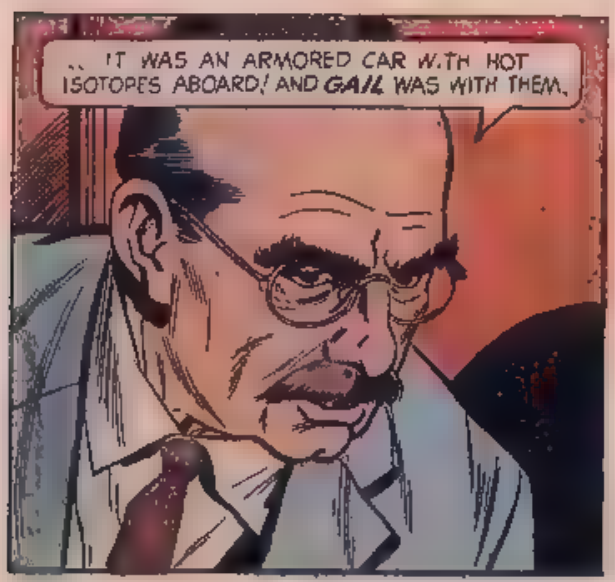

FOR A TENSE MOMENT, ATOM VALLEY SECURITY CHECKS THEIR FORGED CREDENTIALS...

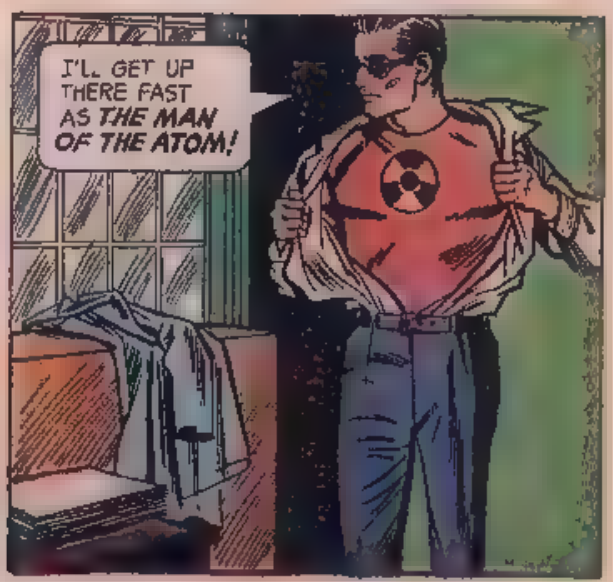

...AND THEY PASS THE FIRST TEST EXACTLY AS PLANNED!

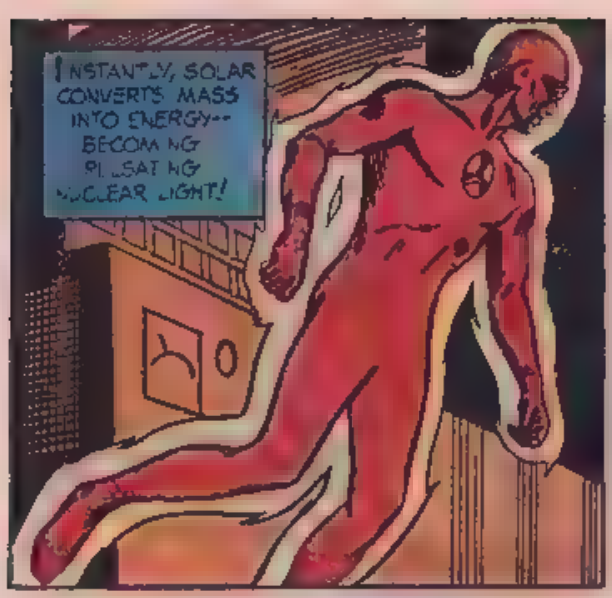

QUICKLY THE RADIATION-PROOF CAR IS LOADED...
WILL YOU RIDE UP FRONT WITH US, DR. SANDERS?
YES, WE CAN GO NOW!

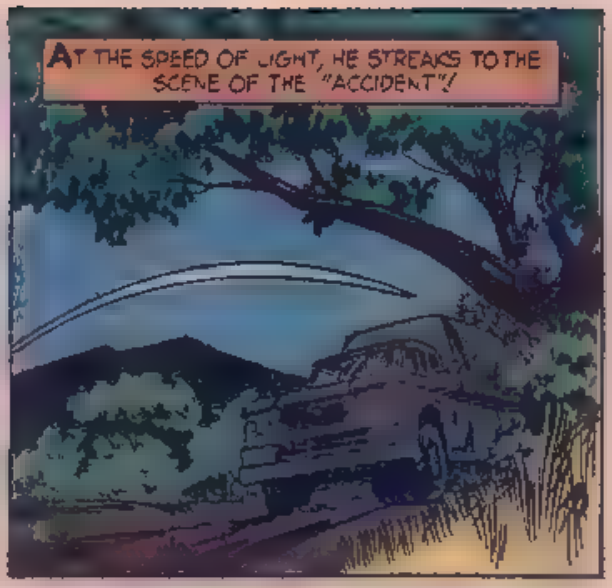

AND THE FINAL STAGE OF THE KIDNAPPING IS CARRIED OUT WITH MACHINE-LIKE EFFICIENCY!

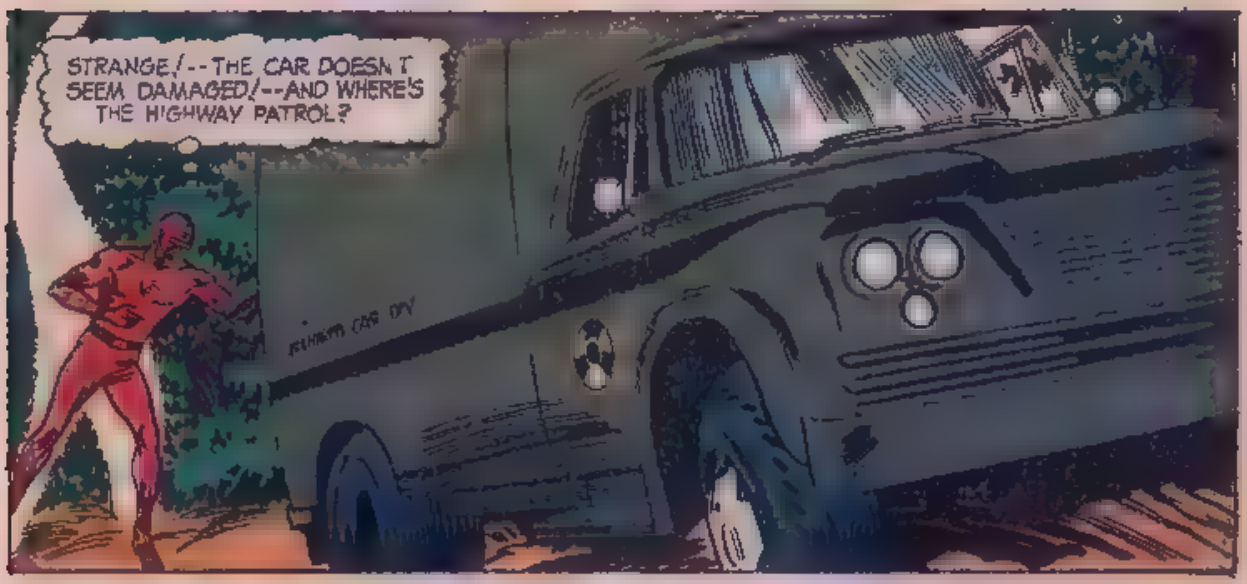

THIRTY MINUTES LATER...
SOLAR! THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL JUST CALLED! THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT UP ON THE MOUNTAIN!

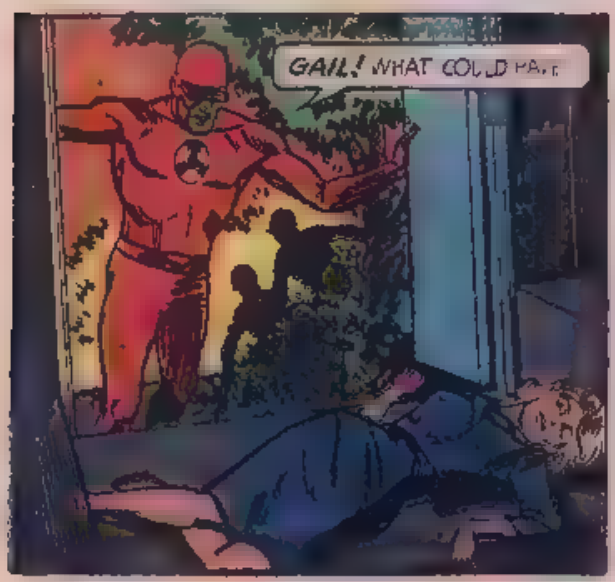

... IT WAS AN ARMORED CAR WITH HOT ISOTOPES ABOARD! AND GAIL WAS WITH THEM.


I'LL GET UP THERE FAST AS THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

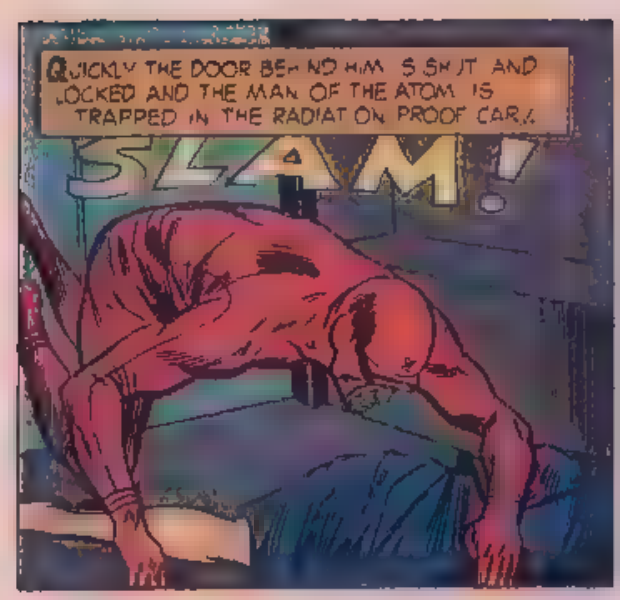

INSTANTLY, SOLAR CONVERTS MASS INTO ENERGY-- BECOMING PULSATING NUCLEAR LIGHT!

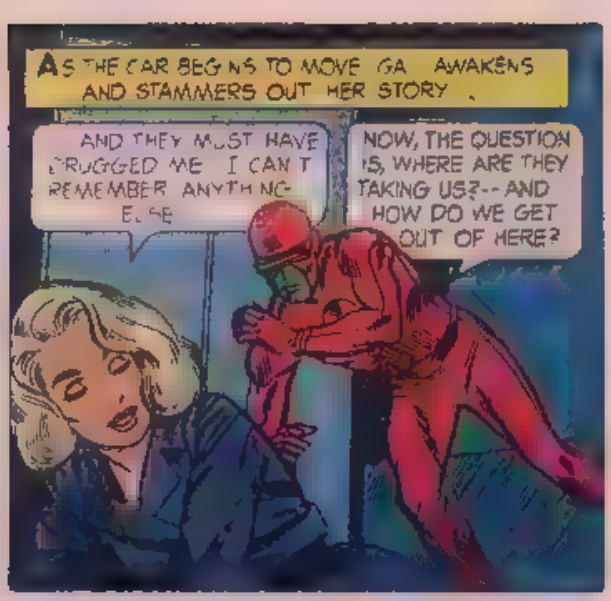

AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, HE STREAKS TO THE SCENE OF THE "ACCIDENT"!

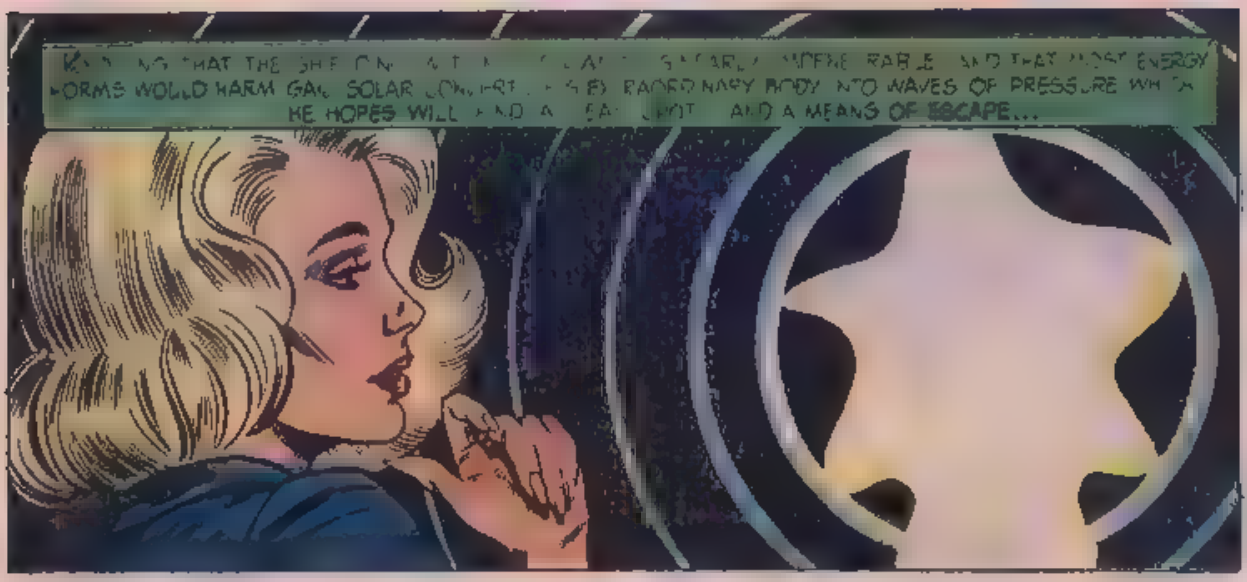

STRANGE!--THE CAR DOESN'T SEEM DAMAGED!--AND WHERE'S THE HIGHWAY PATROL?


GAIL! WHAT COULD HA

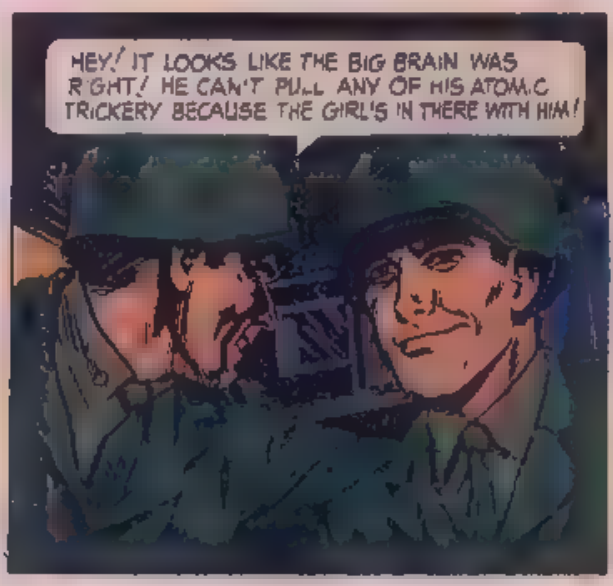
SUDDENLY SOLAR'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED

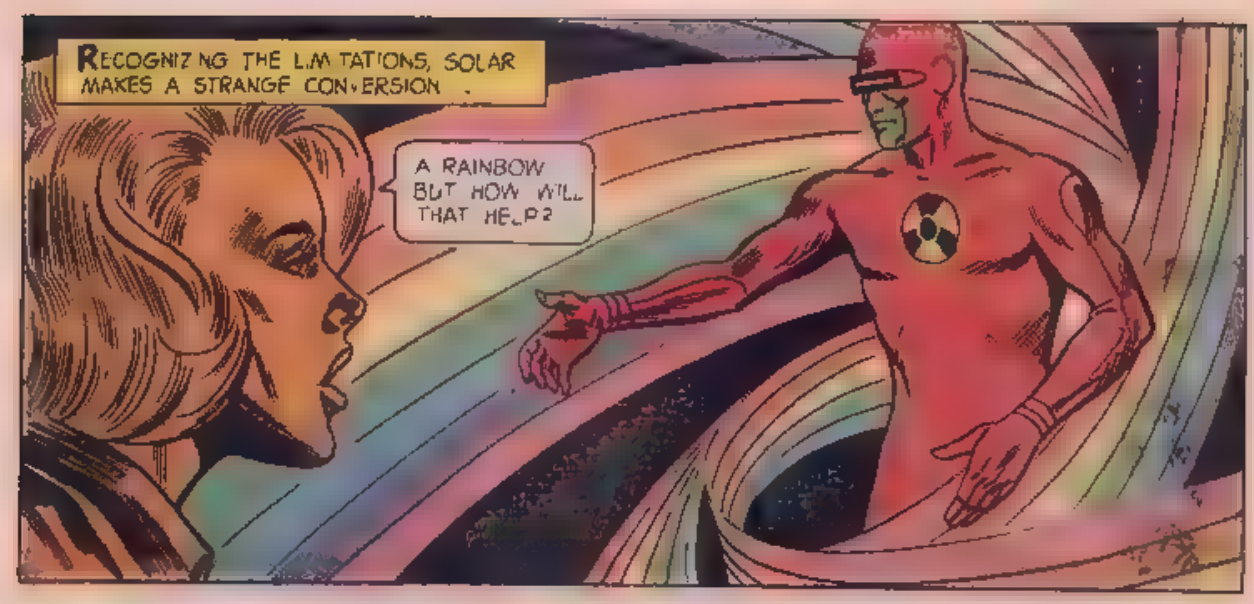

QUICKLY THE DOOR BEHIND HIM SHUT AND LOCKED AND THE MAN OF THE ATOM IS TRAPPED IN THE RADIATION PROOF CAR!
SLAM!


AS THE CAR BEGINS TO MOVE GAIL AWAKENS AND STAMMERS OUT HER STORY.
AND THEY MUST HAVE DRUGGED ME I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE
NOW, THE QUESTION IS, WHERE ARE THEY TAKING US?--AND HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?

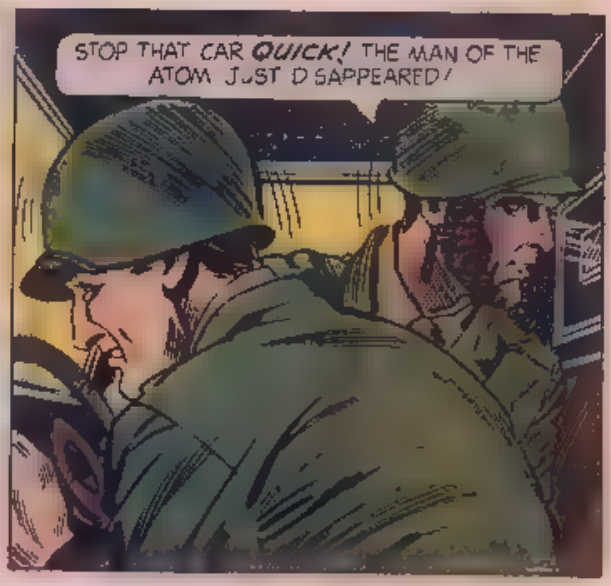

KNOWING THAT THE SHEATH [illegible] SUFFERABLE AND THAT MOST ENERGY FORMS WOULD HARM GAIL SOLAR CONVERTS [illegible] RADIO WAVE BODY INTO WAVES OF PRESSURE WHICH HE HOPES WILL [illegible] AND A [illegible] AND A MEANS OF ESCAPE...

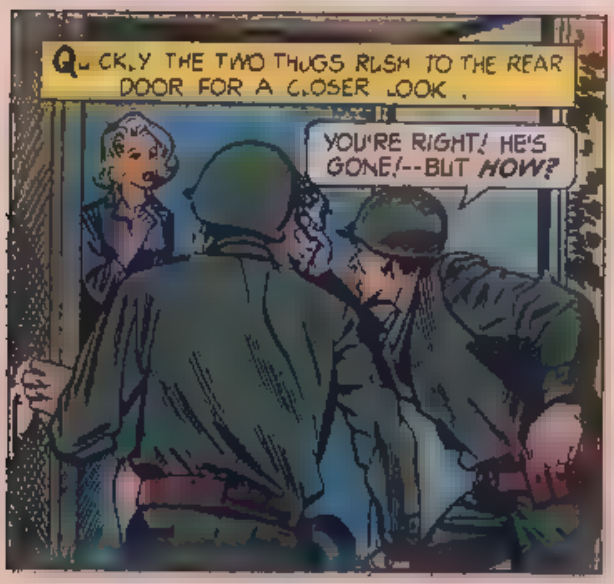
BUT AS THE PRESSURE BUILDS, GAIL CRIES OUT
S-STOP! MY EARS--WILL BURST MY BOD CAN'T STAND THE PRESSURE


HEY! IT LOOKS LIKE THE BIG BRAIN WAS RIGHT! HE CAN'T PULL ANY OF HIS ATOMIC TRICKERY BECAUSE THE GIRL'S IN THERE WITH HIM!

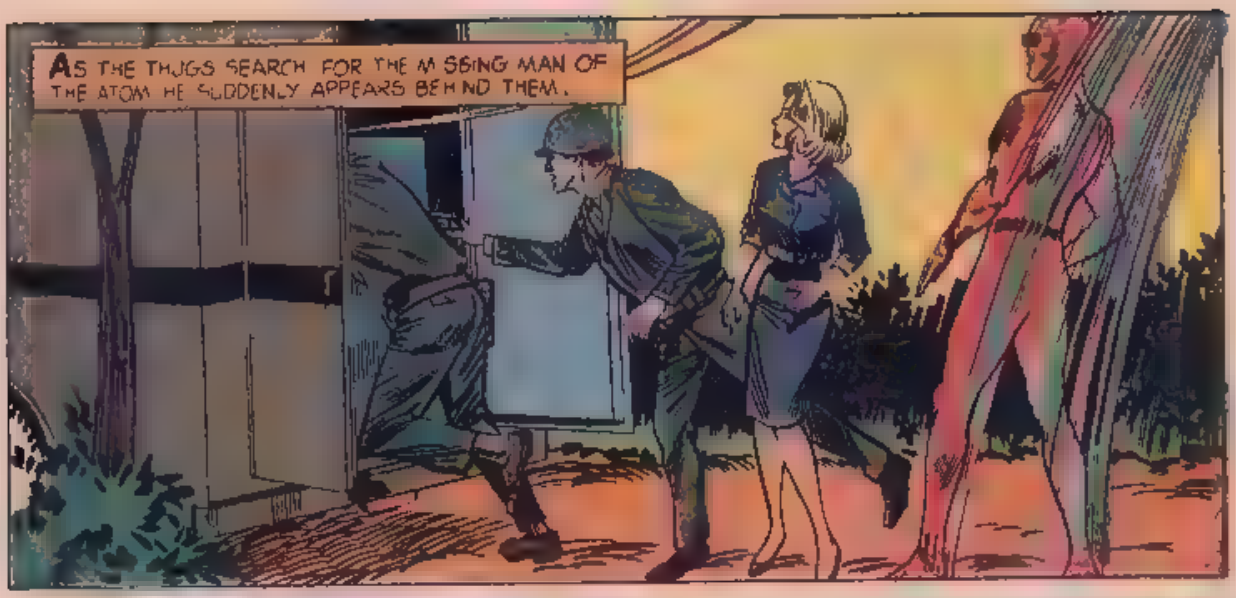

RECOGNIZING THE LIMITATIONS, SOLAR MAKES A STRANGE CONVERSION.
A RAINBOW BUT HOW WILL THAT HELP?

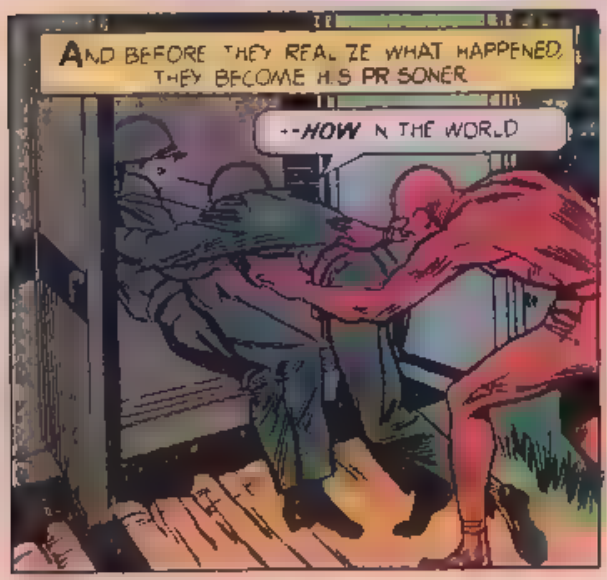
HE MUST BE GOING CRAZY IN THERE! HE'S TURNING HIMSELF INTO A RAINBOW!

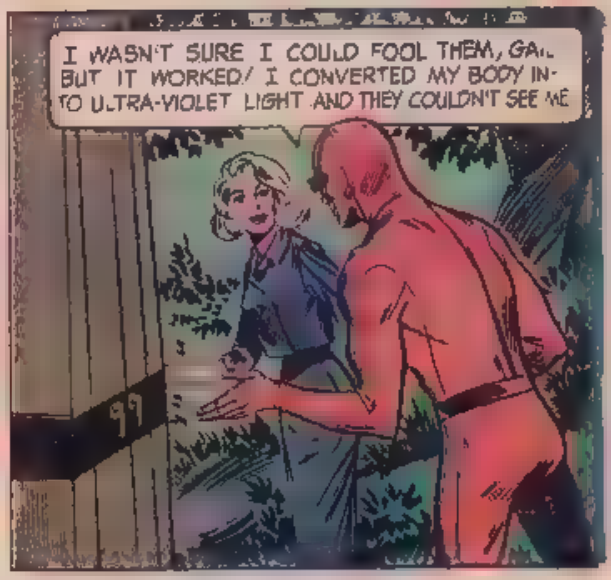

STOP THAT CAR QUICK! THE MAN OF THE ATOM JUST DISAPPEARED!

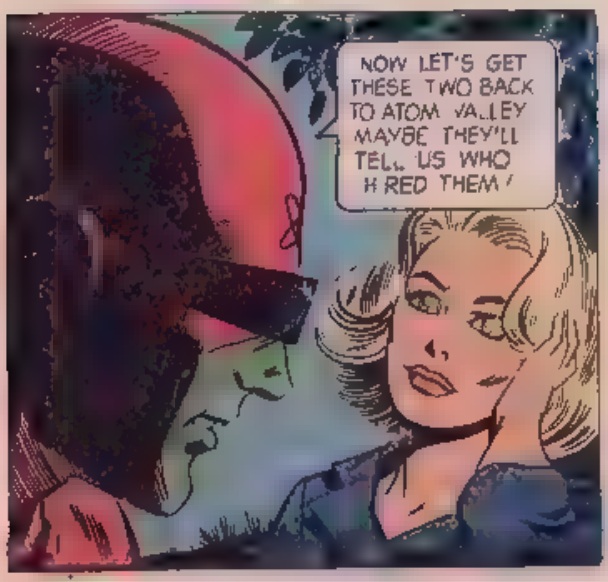

QUICKLY THE TWO THUGS RUSH TO THE REAR DOOR FOR A CLOSER LOOK.
YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S GONE!--BUT HOW?

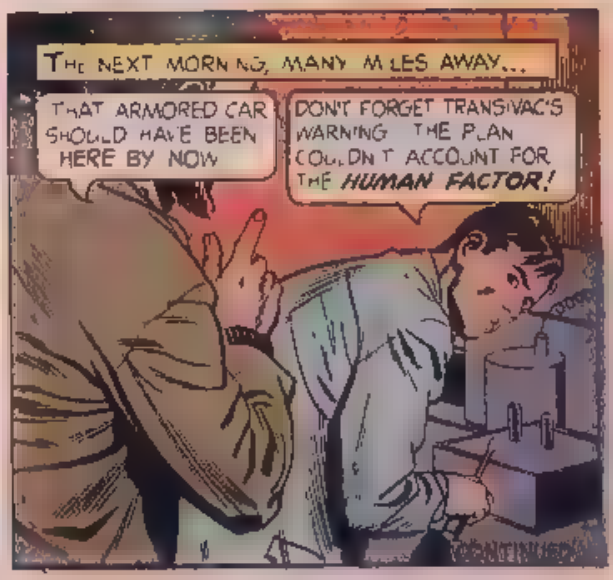
ALL RIGHT, LADY-- OUTSIDE!


AS THE THUGS SEARCH FOR THE MISSING MAN OF THE ATOM HE SUDDENLY APPEARS BEHIND THEM.


AND BEFORE THEY REALIZE WHAT HAPPENED, THEY BECOME HIS PRISONER
--HOW IN THE WORLD


I WASN'T SURE I COULD FOOL THEM, GAIL BUT IT WORKED! I CONVERTED MY BODY INTO ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT AND THEY COULDN'T SEE ME


NOW LET'S GET THESE TWO BACK TO ATOM VALLEY MAYBE THEY'LL TELL US WHO HIRED THEM!


THE NEXT MORNING, MANY MILES AWAY...
THAT ARMORED CAR SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW
DON'T FORGET TRANSVAC'S WARNING THE PLAN COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR THE HUMAN FACTOR!
CONTINUED

SOLAR'S SCIENCE FORUM

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I am a new Solar fan, age eight, and have read Solar issue #7. I read your Science Forum and in there read that issue #7 is the first to have alien beings. They don't have too many Doctor Solar Comics around, so will you please tell me if there will be any more alien beings in your Doctor Solar's Comics? I know that Doctor Solar is a scientist, but what kind of scientist is he? I know that he has nuclear powers, but can you name all of his powers?

Brian Moser
23771 Fenton Dr., Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Issue #7 was the first and only use of aliens in Doctor Solar. Did you like them? Solar is a physicist. His body is radioactive as a result of an accident in an atomic reactor. He is able to convert the matter in his body into any form of energy.

I am a great fan of science fiction magazines, but I have noticed that all of these magazines have three things in common: 1. The characters have unbelievable powers. 2. The characters are always going into outer space. 3. The villains usually have strange powers too. But your magazine is different. Doctor Solar is the best, fastest rising, new comic hero of today. I think you have created an immortal figure in comic history!

Michael Ortiz
3209 Donegal, El Paso, Texas

In the November issue of Doctor Solar, there are letters from people who read the comic. One of them in particular caught my eye. It was from Charles P. L. Curry who maintained that the ocean floor was made of rocks and sand and you retaliated by implying that when you mix sand with water you get mud. I just had to write and tell you that he was partly right and that you were dead wrong! If you mix sand with water you get wet sand and nothing more. In some areas the ocean floor is mud due to the fact that there is little sand in the area. It takes more than sand and water to make mud. If you do not believe this, let me know and I will send you some mud to examine. You should print an explanation of your statement and admit that you were wrong. Although your comics are not at all realistic, they are educational in some respects and not as phoney as some others. Therefore, comparatively speaking, your magazine is good.

M. Cole
Box 410, Camp Borden, Ont.

You could have fooled us!

You did a dirty, rotten thing in ruining the figure of Doctor Solar. Yes sir! — Ruining him! You made him into a dull, conventional, boring super-duper hero. You gave him the always-the-same plot of a double identity (echh!) uniform (puff!) etc., etc. (gag! gag!) The only good thing you did was to use the signal for radioactivity distinctively. But, besides that, he's ruined, poor chap! I write this letter because I want to make a renewal of some of your comics and I would like to know if I should include Doctor Solar. So please tell me if you're going to make some of the things in the following list. If you are, I won't subscribe again to Doctor Solar.

1. Will he have a counterpart, child or woman, with the same powers as his? (yechh!)
2. Will he join some kind of super hero group? (don't do it, please!)
3. Will you keep that repulsive villain, Nuro, forever in the comic? (No, No!)
4. Will you keep the interesting Professor Harbinger section? (It's the best part of the magazine!)

Benjamin Urrutia
Casilla 5476, Guayaquil, Equador

To answer your questions: 1. Certainly not! 2. Never. 3. Yes, yes! 4. Of course.

I would like to know two things: 1. Why on your comics do you have two pictures, back and front? 2. Why are some books good art and others bad? I have read only two Doctor Solar comics. "The Crystallized Killers" and "The Vanishing Oceans." About Professor Harbinger Whew! Satellite sweepers - How nutty can you get? I would like a report.

Paul Praschak
308 Wisconsin Ave., Marshfield, Wisc.

We print the cover picture on the back of some Comics in answer to reader requests for pin-ups of their favorite characters. Look for Gold Key Comic Pix, a new idea in pin-ups on some current issues. Why is the art good in some comics and bad in others? — — Beats us, we don't publish any bad ones! . . . End of report. . . .

Your company seems to specialize in high-quality comics. Doctor Solar is certainly a fine example of this. It combines the best in artwork with some really fine writing. With the possible exception of your own Russ Manning (Magnus, Robot Fighter and Korak, Son Of Tarzan), the artwork in Solar is the best of any current comic. The writing is always intelligent, perhaps too intelligent for many readers. Too often you rely on scientific drivel, which doesn't really make much sense but sounds good in a comic age in which just saying: "the villain pulled a cosmic ray filament vibrating machine gun!" without any further explanation seems to be enough. In a medium which thrives on the fantastic, such a statement without any explanation is more acceptable to most readers. It is easier to believe that a human could have Solar's powers than to believe in some of the dangers he faces because of the double-talk sounding, yet solidly-reasoned, explanations. Further, modern readers prefer the kind of hero who ducks into an alley, says a magic word, pops out in full costume and performs miracles as the whole world "oohs" and "ahs." Doctor Solar, until recently, lacked this element of heroism. Half the fun is taken out when nobody knows about the hero. Another detriment is the characterization, which is probably too adult. Although most real people would act like Gail, Doc and the others, most people want to see someone snooping all over the lab trying to prove that Doc Solar is really the Man Of The Atom. They want a hero who really tries to hide his identity and who acts like a hero when he is a hero and who acts like a plain old human being in his secret identity.

Rick Weingroff
3231 Southgreen Road, Baltimore, Md.

— — Just because "they" like potatoes, can't they like meat just as much? Sure, Solar is different than ordinary "super heroes." But there are many of them, and only one Man Of The Atom!

Doctor Solar has really improved since a few of his first average issues. When I first saw Doc Solar, in issue #1, I thought it was a bit corny, so I just threw it away. Now that Solar has a uniform and some well-developed powers, I've started buying the Doc again. Since I didn't have the first few issues, and had to have all of them, I had to hunt all over to get them. The first issue cost me 50¢! Now I've learned to give a comic a chance before I judge it. Now I heard about the "discontinuation" of Doctor Solar. ARE YOU MAD!!? This is the best comic you have! Some of the covers were slightly dull, but if you keep having covers like that gem #7, I don't see why he should be dropped!

Vincent C. Stuart II
1438 W. Euclid, Detroit 6, Mich.

A rumor spread through Comic Fandom that Solar might be dropped. It was quoted in some fanzines as a rumor — and that's exactly what it is! Solar will be around for a long time to come!

I think Doctor Solar is great. But I disapprove with some readers. I think that Doctor Solar's costume is great just the way it is and that you should have more monsters. It makes the magazine more exciting. I think that when The Man Of The Atom goes after criminals and when they try to shoot him, that when the bullets nearly hit him they should melt. By the way, please keep D.S.'s other name "The Man Of The Atom." I agree that you should have a TV show about Doctor Solar.

Fred Humberstone
11552 87th Ave. N., Largo, Fla.

It's not possible to answer each and every letter, but we welcome your ideas and suggestions. Address your mail to: DOCTOR SOLAR, K. K. Publications, Inc., Poughkeepsie, New York, 12601

Professor Harbinger

The Robot Spacemen

JUST A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO BEFORE MANKIND HAD PROBED THE MYSTERIOUS REALM OF SPACE, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS ONLY *MECHANICAL* PILOTS COULD SURVIVE THE RIGORS...

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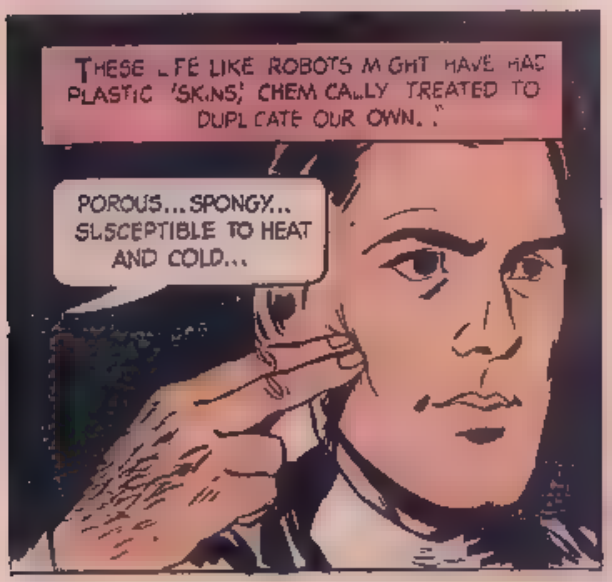
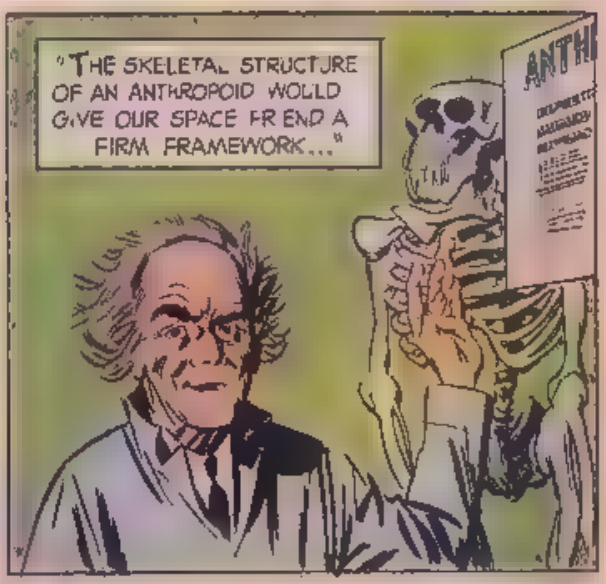
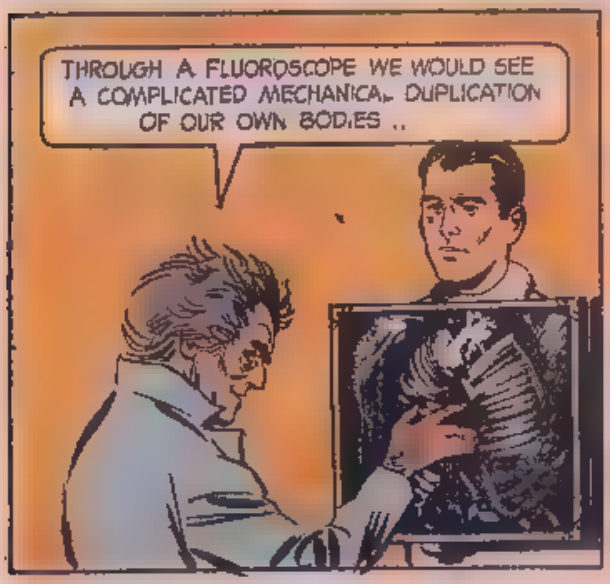
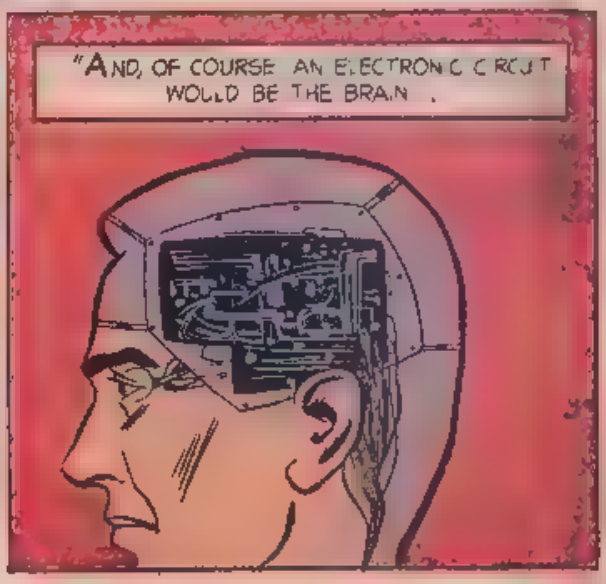

THESE LIFE LIKE ROBOTS MIGHT HAVE HAD PLASTIC 'SKINS' CHEMICALLY TREATED TO DUPLICATE OUR OWN."
POROUS...SPONGY... SUSCEPTIBLE TO HEAT AND COLD...







"HUNDREDS OF TERMINALS AND THERMOSTATS WOULD RELAY THE 'HUMAN' RESPONSES OF OUR SPACEMAN BACK TO EARTH!"
NOW, SINCE WE HAVE TAKEN OUR FIRST GIANT STEP INTO SPACE SAFELY WITH HUMAN ASTRONAUTS, WILL ROBOT SPACEMEN EVER BE NEEDED? PERHAPS...
WHAT OF PLUTO, THE OUTERMOST PLANET OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM OF PLANETS? WE KNOW SO LITTLE OF ITS MYSTERIES-- GRAVITY, ATMOSPHERE! PERHAPS A ROBOT SPACEMAN WILL VENTURE THERE FIRST!
"OUR MECHANICAL REPLICA MIGHT BE SPED ON 'HIS' WAY FUNCTIONING PERFECTLY
"THEN, AS 'HE' NEARS HIS TARGET 3,675,270,000 MILES FROM THE SUN, IT HAPPENS... SHORT CIRCUIT... A

"HE CRASH-LANDS ON THE ALIEN PLANET, A MECHANIZED MAN GONE AMOK.
"THE WORD GOES OUT SWIFTLY TO THE OTHER PLANETS..."
CALLING URANUS...NEPTUNE! EARTH PEOPLE CRAZED--DEADLY ENEMIES OF OUR PLANETARY SYSTEM!
"LATER, AN ALIEN ARMADA BLANKETS THE SPACEWAYS. OUR STAIRWAY TO THE STARS IS CUT OFF
"OR PERHAPS THE SHORT CIRCUIT MERELY STUNS OUR INGENIOUS ROBOT...HE LANDS SAFELY...
"BUT 'HE' IS IN A STATE OF SHOCK.. HE HAS TURNED TRAITOR..."
CRUEL. MEAN. ROCKET DEFENSES HERE...HERE...
THE EARTHMAN HAS DEFECTED, ESCAPED FROM A TREACHEROUS PLANET! NOW WE SHALL KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH EARTH!

"AS A RESULT OF THE ROBOT'S TREACHERY, ALL FUTURE SPACE PROBES WOULD BE THOUGHT HOSTILE... ALIEN MISSILES WOULD BLAST THEM FROM SPACE..."
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!-- TURN BACK!
"AS A RESULT, OUR OWN MILITARY FORCES WOULD BECOME CONFUSED..TAKE STEPS."
IT IS A CALAMITY--THE SEA OF SPACE IS FILLED WITH HOSTILE, ENEMY PLANETS! WE MUST PREPARE TO DEFEND OURSELVES FROM ALIEN ATTACK!
IT MIGHT BE A CENTURY... OR *TWO* BEFORE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE "HOSTILE" PLANETS AND OURSELVES WAS ESTABLISHED AND SANITY RETURNED TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM...
AND, OF COURSE, THE PLANETS MIGHT ALSO SEND *THEIR* DUPLICATES TO *US*...(*ULP!*)
WHY, *PROFESSOR HARBINGER,* WHAT'S WRONG? THAT'S JUST YOUR ASSISTANT TESTING OUT THE NEW-TYPE FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT!
HEH, HEH! CERTAINLY, MY DEAR-- I, ER, WAS MERELY DAYDREAMING A BIT! HEH, HEH!

DOCTOR SOLAR

TRANSIVAC-PART II

THE ENEMY WITHIN

IN CAPTURING NURO'S MEN, SOLAR HAS COME CLOSER THAN EVER TO DISCOVERING THE IDENTITY OF HIS UNKNOWN ENEMY! BUT ALL HOPE OF CRACKING NURO'S SHELL OF SECRECY VANISHES WITH THE SECURITY DIVISION'S REPORT . ON THE TWO PRISONERS...

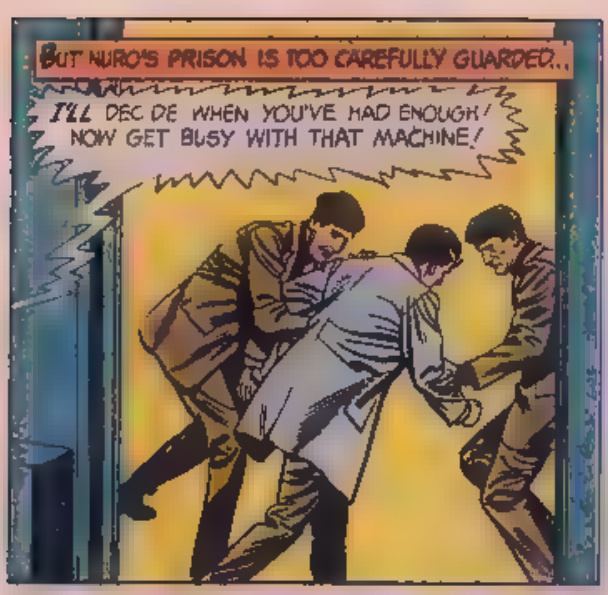
---WHETHER THEY DON'T KNOW, OR JUST AREN'T TALKING IS ANYBODY'S GUESS, SIR! BUT WE CAN'T GET *ANYTHING* OUT OF THEM!

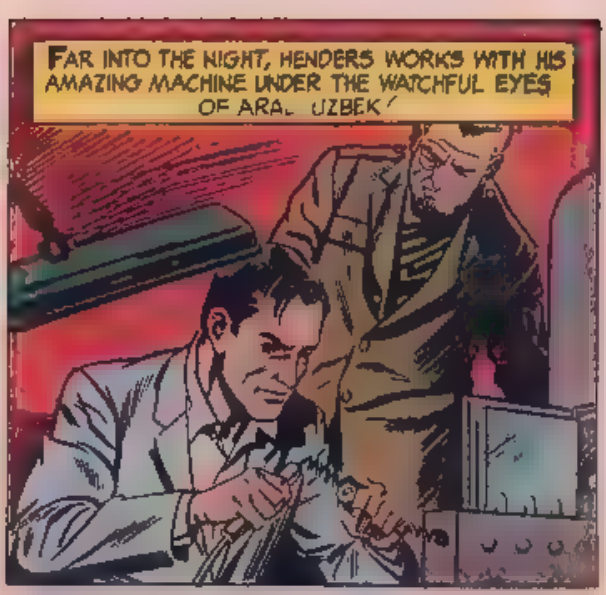
--AND SO, THE SECRET WAR CONTINUES!

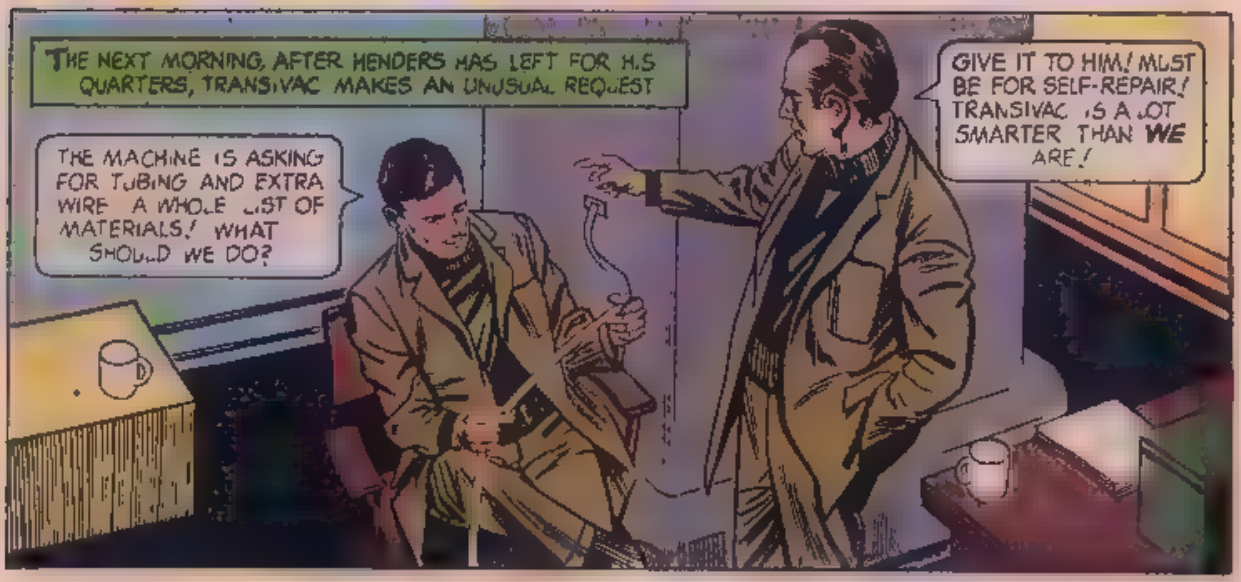
I WON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN PERFECTION, HENDERS! I WANT-*THE MAN OF THE ATOM DESTROYED!*

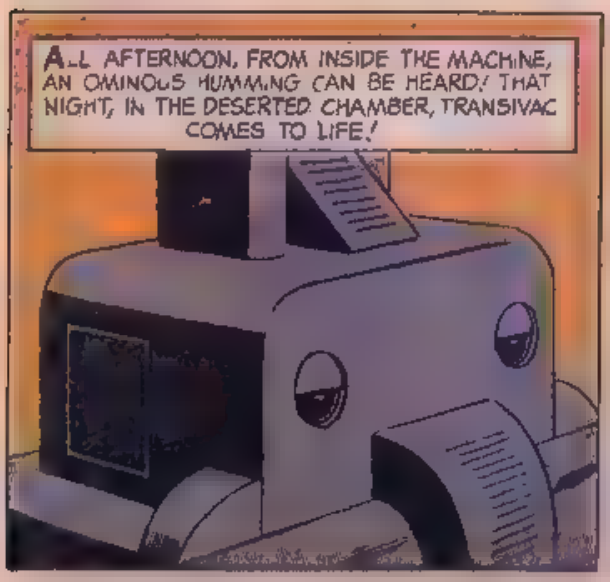
WITH SURPRISING SPEED AND FORCE THE SCIENTIST MAKES A BREAK FOR FREEDOM

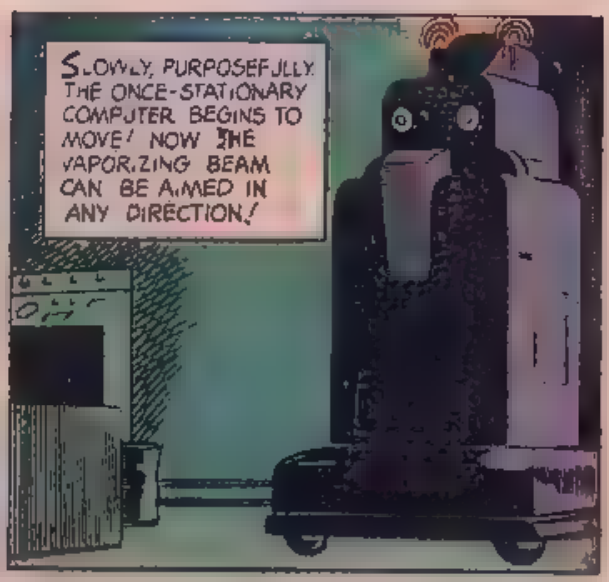
NO! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.

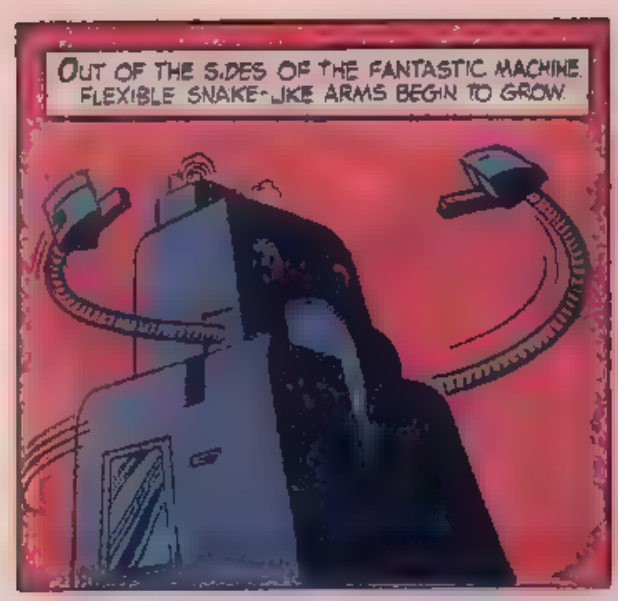

BUT NURO'S PRISON IS TOO CAREFULLY GUARDED...
I'LL DECIDE WHEN YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH! NOW GET BUSY WITH THAT MACHINE!

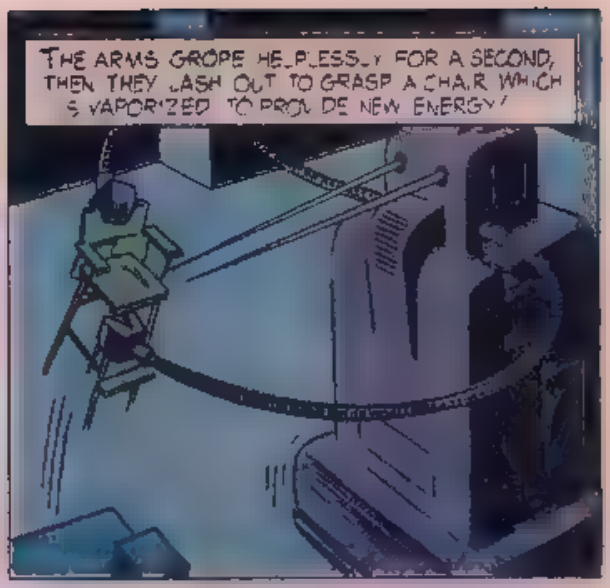

FAR INTO THE NIGHT, HENDERS WORKS WITH HIS AMAZING MACHINE UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF ARAL UZBEK!

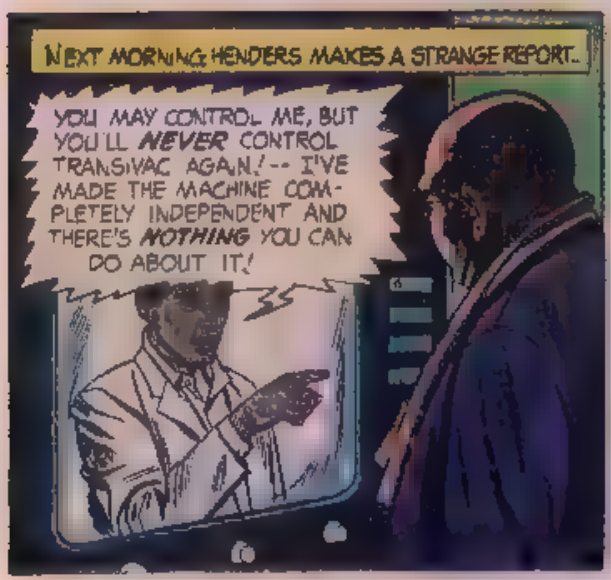

THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER HENDERS HAS LEFT FOR H.S QUARTERS, TRANSIVAC MAKES AN UNUSUAL REQUEST
THE MACHINE IS ASKING FOR TUBING AND EXTRA WIRE A WHOLE LIST OF MATERIALS! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
GIVE IT TO HIM! MUST BE FOR SELF-REPAIR! TRANSIVAC IS A LOT SMARTER THAN WE ARE!


ALL AFTERNOON, FROM INSIDE THE MACHINE, AN OMINOUS HUMMING CAN BE HEARD! THAT NIGHT, IN THE DESERTED CHAMBER, TRANSIVAC COMES TO LIFE!


SLOWLY, PURPOSEFULLY THE ONCE-STATIONARY COMPUTER BEGINS TO MOVE! NOW THE VAPORIZING BEAM CAN BE AIMED IN ANY DIRECTION!

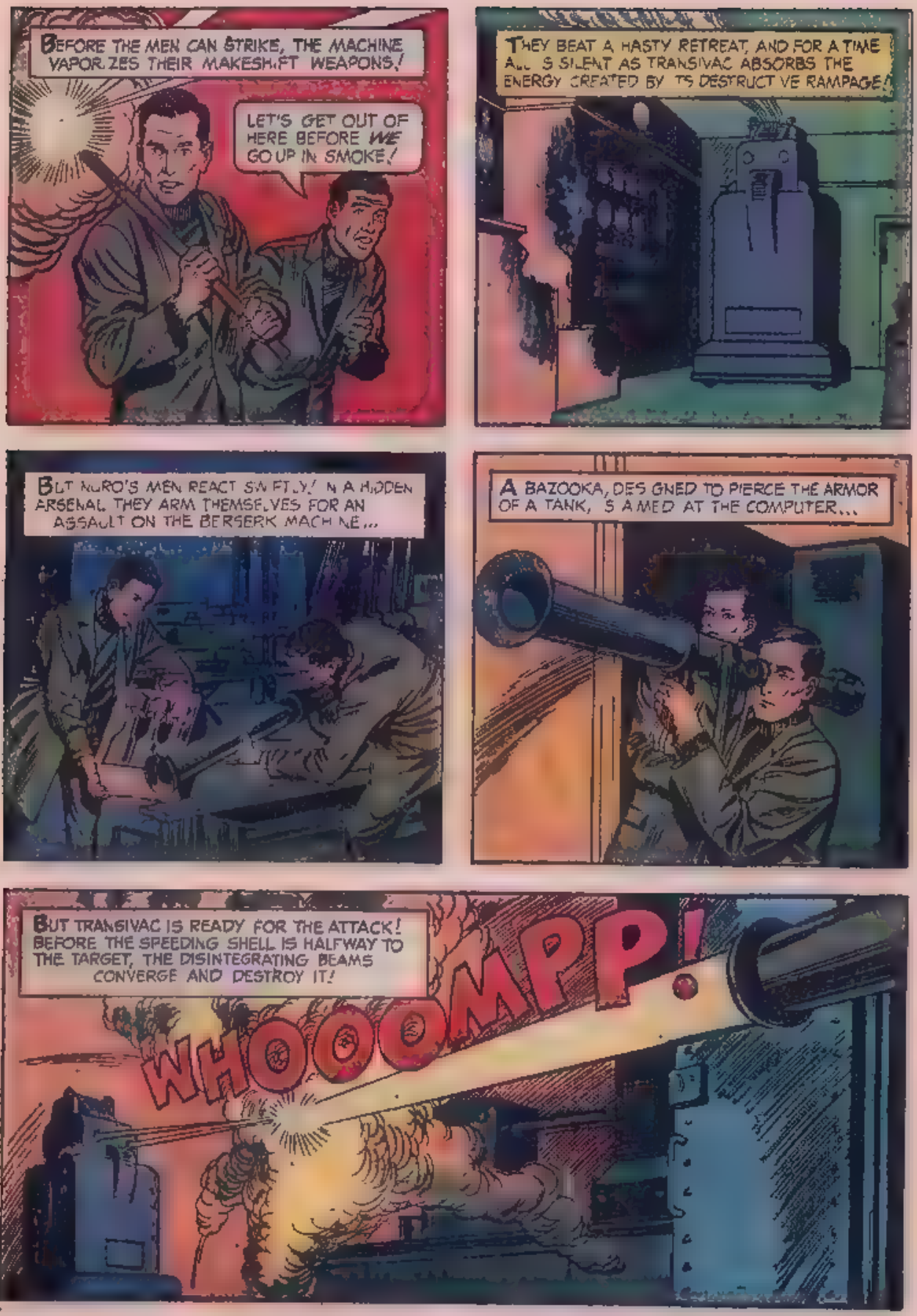

OUT OF THE SIDES OF THE FANTASTIC MACHINE FLEXIBLE SNAKE-LIKE ARMS BEGIN TO GROW


THE ARMS GROPE HELPLESSLY FOR A SECOND, THEN THEY LASH OUT TO GRASP A CHAIR WHICH VAPORIZED TO PROVIDE NEW ENERGY!

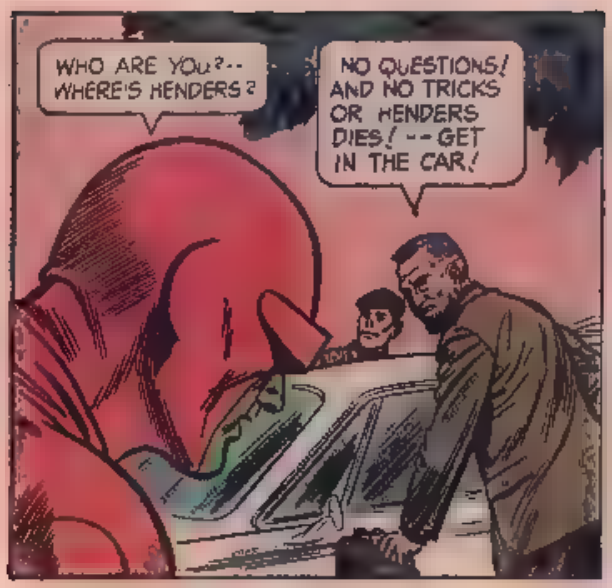

NEXT MORNING: HENDERS MAKES A STRANGE REPORT..
YOU MAY CONTROL ME, BUT YOU'LL NEVER CONTROL TRANSIVAC AGAIN! -- I'VE MADE THE MACHINE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!

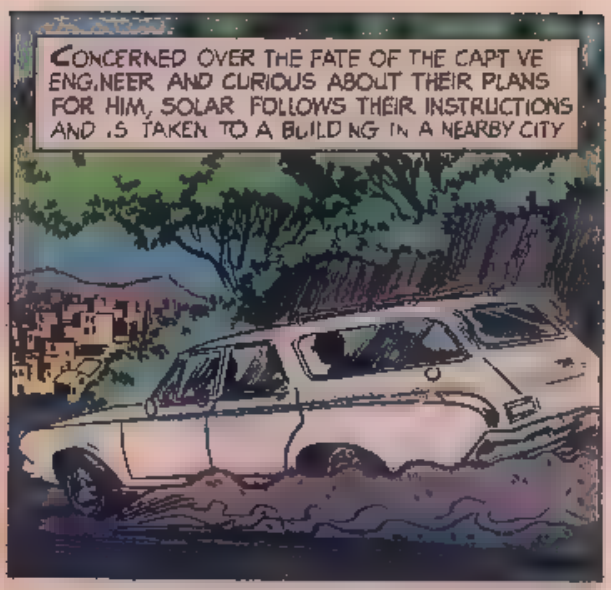
GET THIS MAN OUT OF MY SIGHT! - LOCK HIM IN HIS QUARTERS UNTIL I DECIDE HOW TO DISPOSE OF HIM!

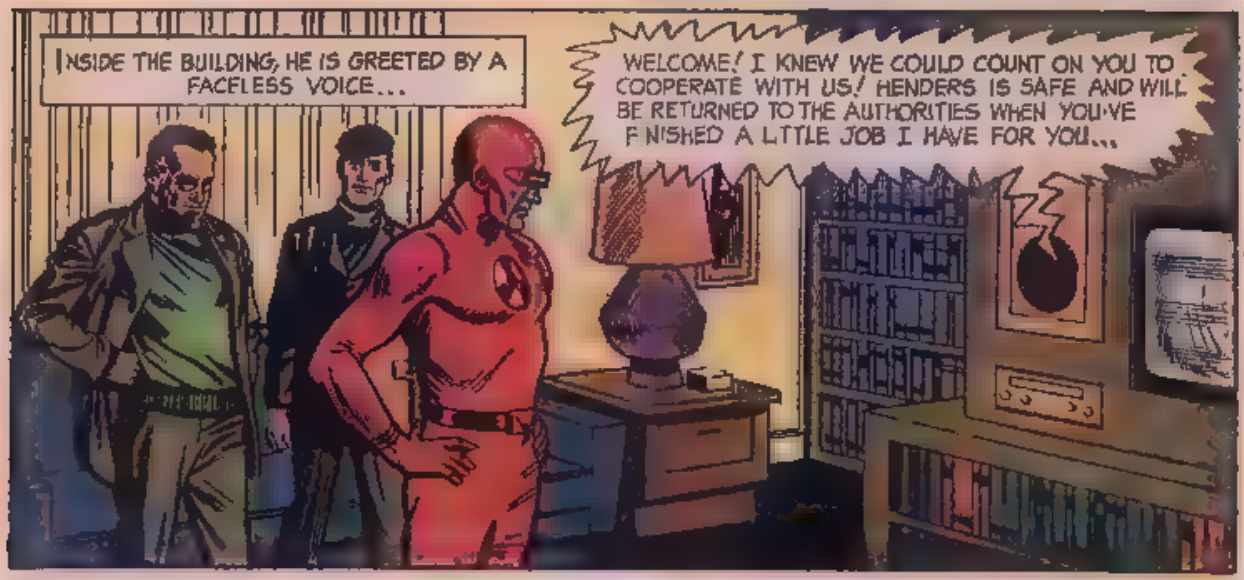
MEANWHILE THE COMPUTER IS ESTABLISHING ITS INDEPENDENCE!
LOOK OUT!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT! IT'S GETTING STRONGER BY THE MINUTE!

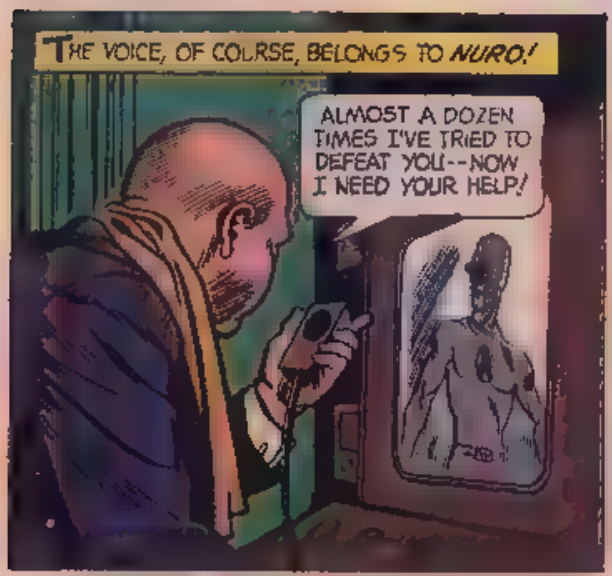

BEFORE THE MEN CAN STRIKE, THE MACHINE VAPORIZES THEIR MAKESHIFT WEAPONS!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE GO UP IN SMOKE!
THEY BEAT A HASTY RETREAT, AND FOR A TIME ALL IS SILENT AS TRANSIVAC ABSORBS THE ENERGY CREATED BY ITS DESTRUCTIVE RAMPAGE!
BUT NURO'S MEN REACT SWIFTLY! IN A HIDDEN ARSENAL THEY ARM THEMSELVES FOR AN ASSAULT ON THE BERSERK MACHINE...
A BAZOOKA, DESIGNED TO PIERCE THE ARMOR OF A TANK, IS AIMED AT THE COMPUTER...
BUT TRANSIVAC IS READY FOR THE ATTACK! BEFORE THE SPEEDING SHELL IS HALFWAY TO THE TARGET, THE DISINTEGRATING BEAMS CONVERGE AND DESTROY IT!
WHOOOMPP!

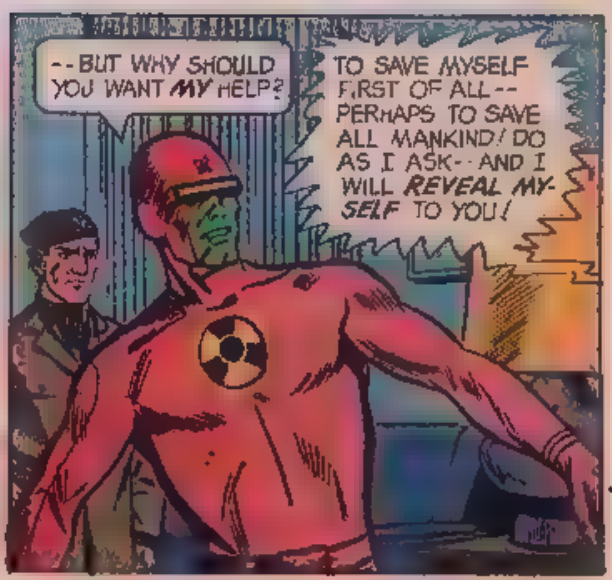
REALIZING THAT NORMAL METHODS ARE HOPELESS, UZBEK CONSULTS WITH HIS LEADER...
HOW DO YOU DEFEAT A MACHINE THAT ANTICIPATES YOUR EVERY MOVE?
IT IS THEN THAT NURO MAKES THE MOST STARTLING DECISION OF HIS CAREER!
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY! -- I MUST ASK THE MAN OF THE ATOM TO HELP ME!
EARLY THAT EVENING, DR. CLARKSON RECEIVES A TELEGRAM!
THIS TELEGRAM -- IS FROM HENDERS' KIDNAPPER! HE'S WILLING TO EXCHANGE HENDERS FOR THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
I SAY GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS! ONCE HE GETS THE MAN OF THE ATOM, HE'S GOT TO HOLD HIM -- AND THAT WON'T BE EASY!
AT DAWN THE NEXT DAY, A STRANGE RENDEZVOUS TAKES PLACE IN THE HILLS OVERLOOKING ATOM VALLEY!
HERE HE COMES! WHAT IF HE'S NOT THE RIGHT GUY! IT COULD BE A TRICK!
THIS GEIGER COUNTER WILL TELL US IF HE'S A PHONEY OR THE REAL MAN OF THE ATOM!


WHO ARE YOU?-- WHERE'S HENDERS?
NO QUESTIONS! AND NO TRICKS OR HENDERS DIES! --GET IN THE CAR!


CONCERNED OVER THE FATE OF THE CAPTIVE ENGINEER AND CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR PLANS FOR HIM, SOLAR FOLLOWS THEIR INSTRUCTIONS AND IS TAKEN TO A BUILDING IN A NEARBY CITY

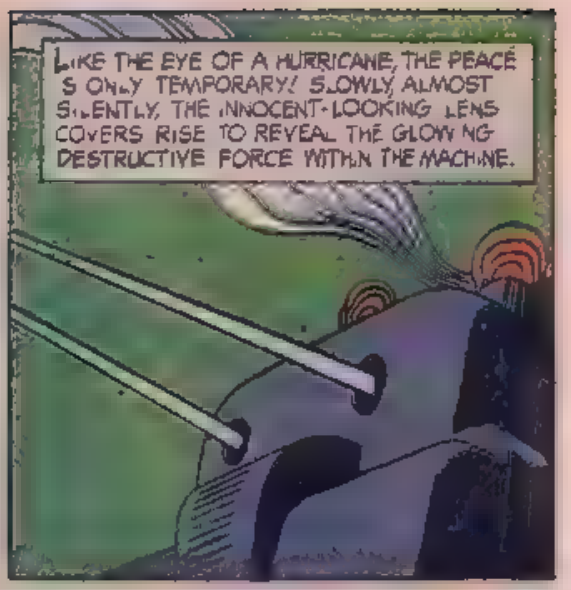

INSIDE THE BUILDING, HE IS GREETED BY A FACELESS VOICE...
WELCOME! I KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOU TO COOPERATE WITH US! HENDERS IS SAFE AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE AUTHORITIES WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED A LITTLE JOB I HAVE FOR YOU...

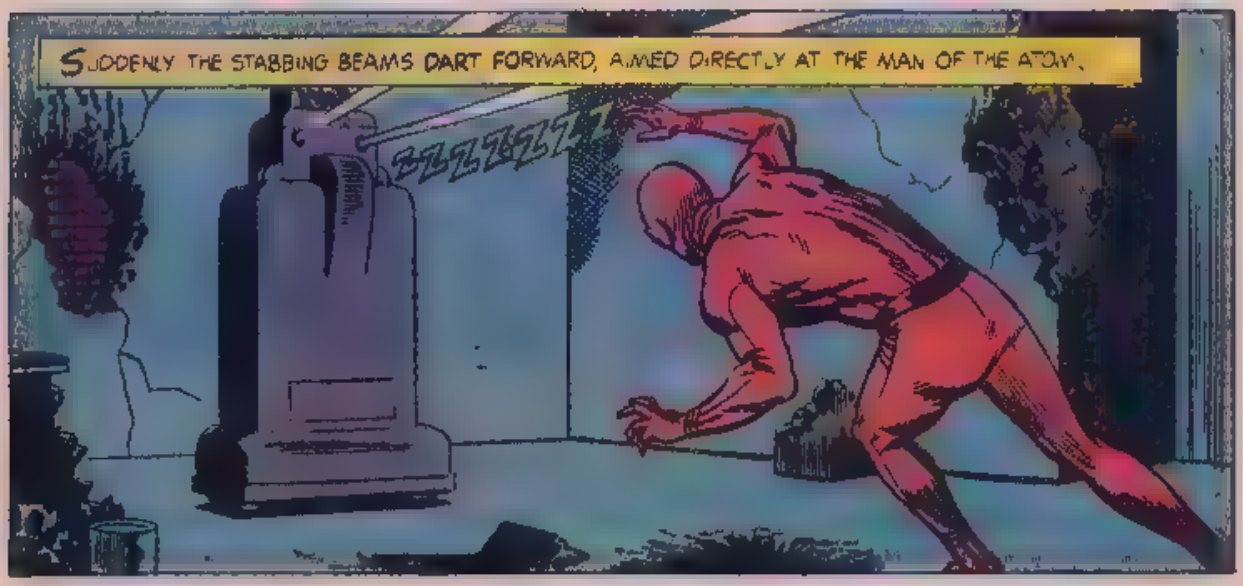

THE VOICE, OF COURSE, BELONGS TO NURO!
ALMOST A DOZEN TIMES I'VE TRIED TO DEFEAT YOU--NOW I NEED YOUR HELP!

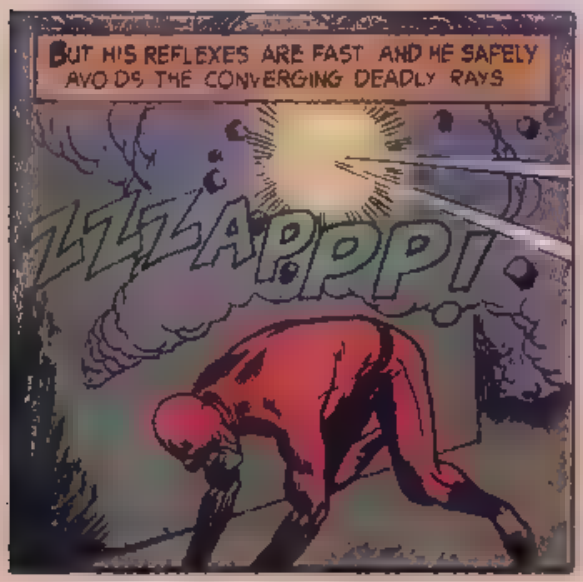

--BUT WHY SHOULD YOU WANT MY HELP?
TO SAVE MYSELF FIRST OF ALL-- PERHAPS TO SAVE ALL MANKIND! DO AS I ASK--AND I WILL REVEAL MYSELF TO YOU!

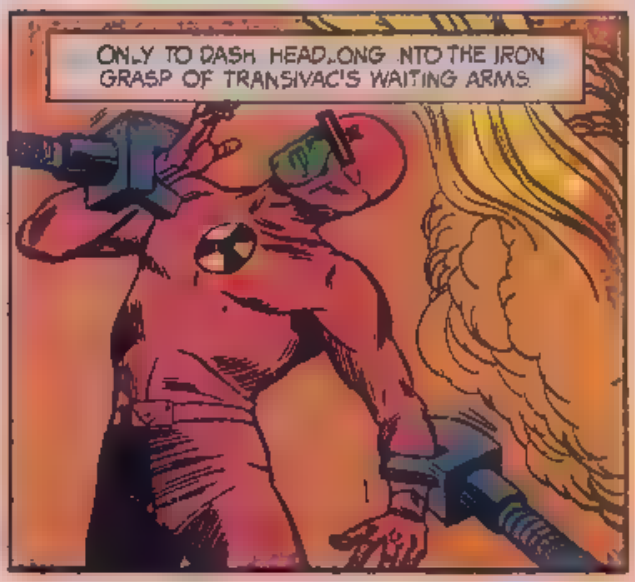
EVEN AS NURO DESCRIBES TRANSIVAC THE MACHINE IS CAUSING HAVOC DEEP WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE BUILDING!
ZZZZZZAPP!
AS IT DESTROYS, IT ABSORBS FANTASTIC AMOUNTS OF ENERGY
ZZZZZZZAPP!
... AND AS IT ABSORBS ENERGY, ITS POWER TO DESTROY INCREASES!
FINALLY, WHEN THE ROOM IS TOTALLY DESTROYED, THE VAPORIZING BEAM BLASTS THROUGH THE WALL AND TRANSIVAC'S RAMPAGE CONTINUES!
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZ!
CRRRAAACK!

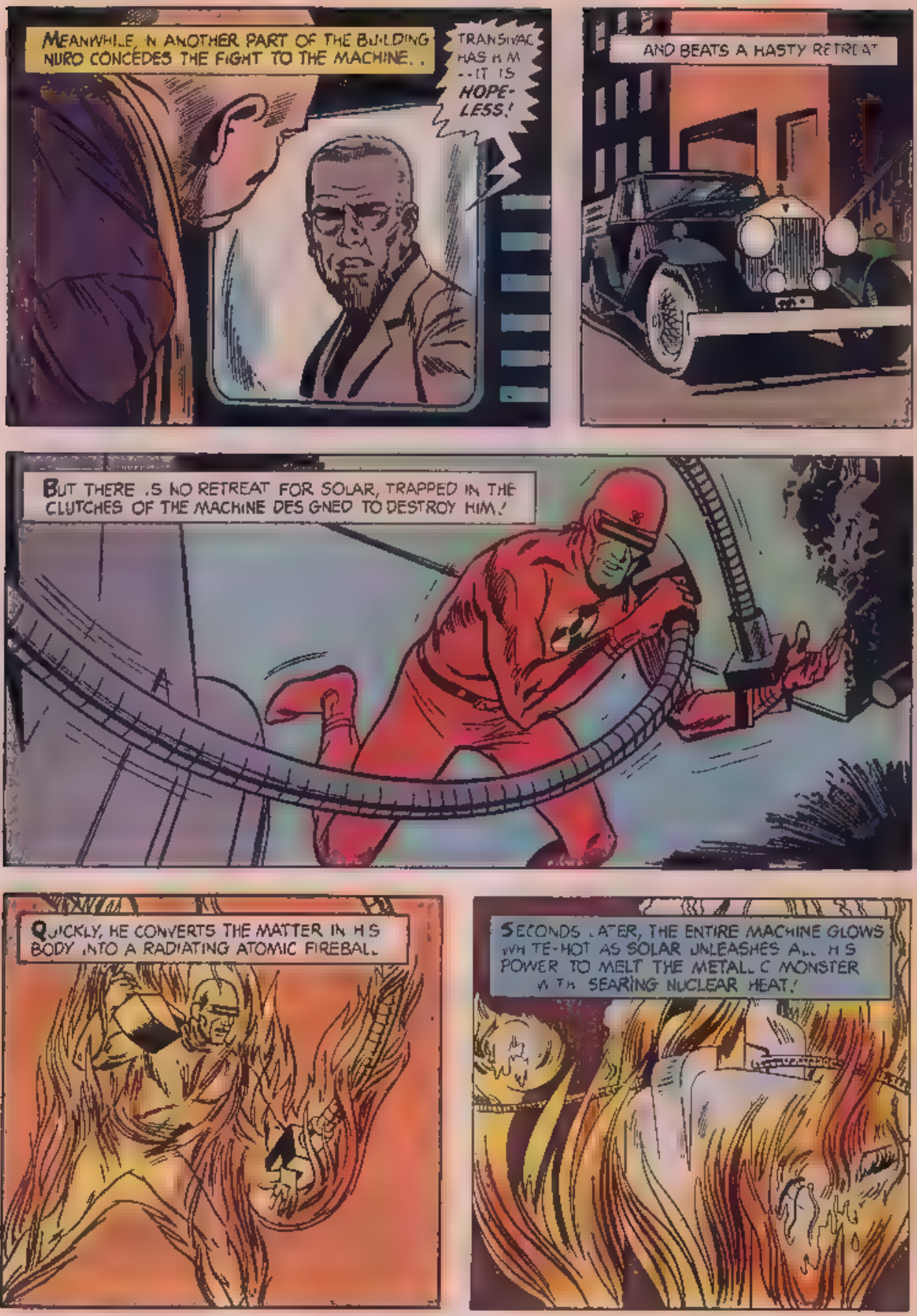
MINUTES LATER THE ROOM GROWS STRANGELY QUIET AS SOLAK STRIDES INTO THE COMPUTERS PRESENCE...

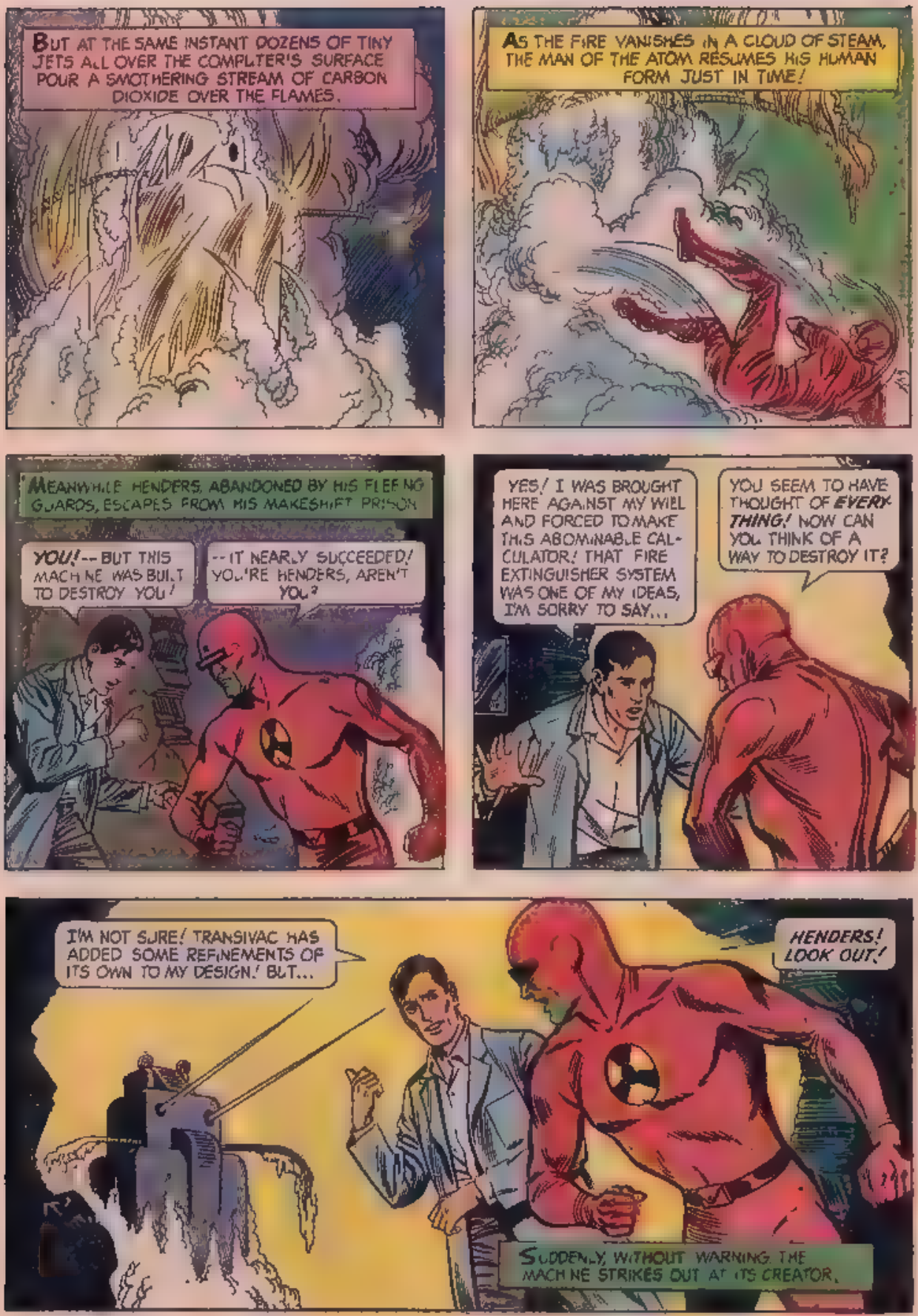

LIKE THE EYE OF A HURRICANE, THE PEACE IS ONLY TEMPORARY! SLOWLY, ALMOST SILENTLY, THE INNOCENT-LOOKING LENS COVERS RISE TO REVEAL THE GLOWING DESTRUCTIVE FORCE WITHIN THE MACHINE.

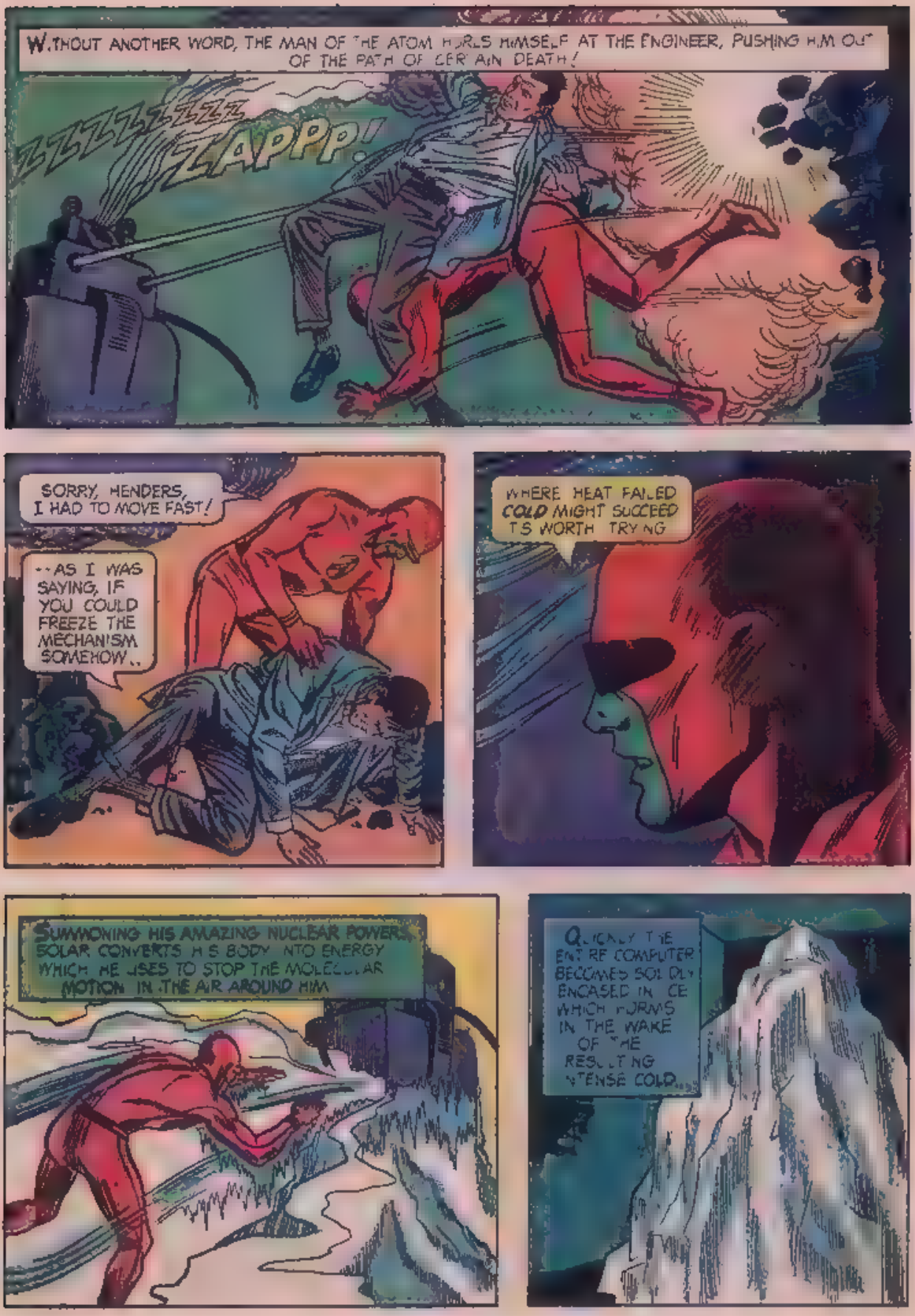

SUDDENLY THE STABBING BEAMS DART FORWARD, AIMED DIRECTLY AT THE MAN OF THE ATOM.
BZZZZZZZ


BUT HIS REFLEXES ARE FAST AND HE SAFELY AVOIDS THE CONVERGING DEADLY RAYS
ZZZZAPPPP!


ONLY TO DASH HEADLONG INTO THE IRON GRASP OF TRANSIVAC'S WAITING ARMS.

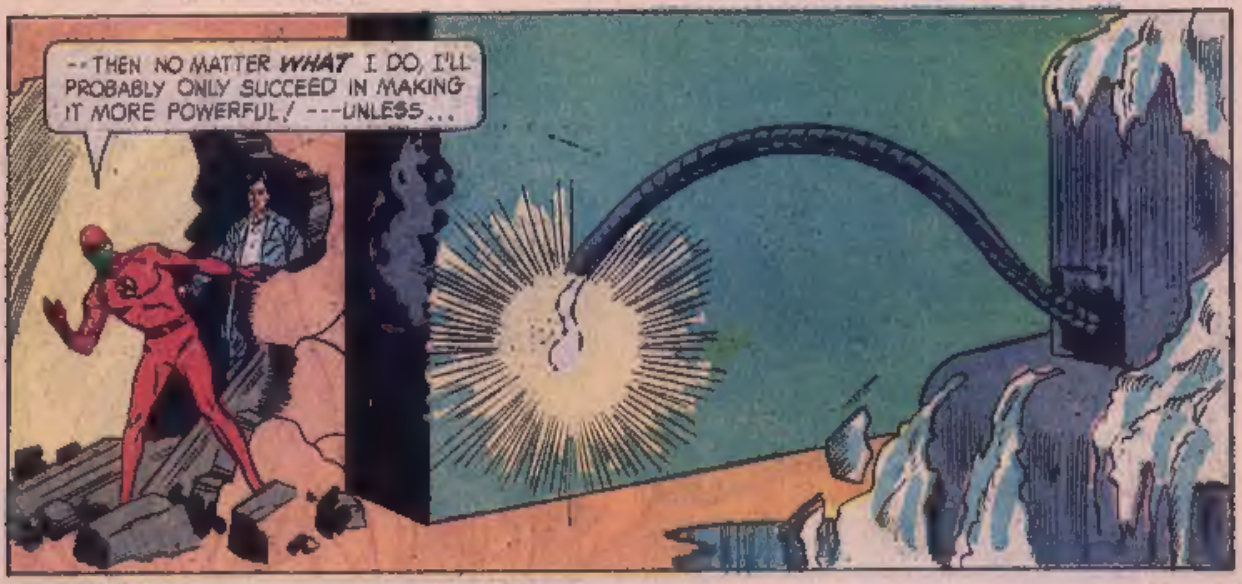

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE BUILDING NURO CONCEDES THE FIGHT TO THE MACHINE. .
TRANSIVAC HAS HIM --IT IS HOPE-LESS!
AND BEATS A HASTY RETREAT
BUT THERE IS NO RETREAT FOR SOLAR, TRAPPED IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE MACHINE DESIGNED TO DESTROY HIM!
QUICKLY, HE CONVERTS THE MATTER IN HIS BODY INTO A RADIATING ATOMIC FIREBALL
SECONDS LATER, THE ENTIRE MACHINE GLOWS WHITE-HOT AS SOLAR UNLEASHES ALL HIS POWER TO MELT THE METALLIC MONSTER WITH SEARING NUCLEAR HEAT!

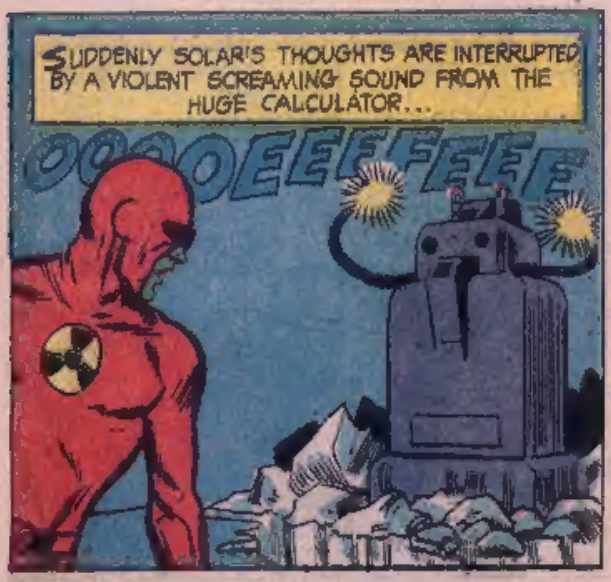

BUT AT THE SAME INSTANT DOZENS OF TINY JETS ALL OVER THE COMPUTER'S SURFACE POUR A SMOTHERING STREAM OF CARBON DIOXIDE OVER THE FLAMES.
AS THE FIRE VANISHES IN A CLOUD OF STEAM, THE MAN OF THE ATOM RESUMES HIS HUMAN FORM JUST IN TIME!
MEANWHILE HENDERS, ABANDONED BY HIS FLEEING GUARDS, ESCAPES FROM HIS MAKESHIFT PRISON
YOU!--BUT THIS MACHINE WAS BUILT TO DESTROY YOU!
--IT NEARLY SUCCEEDED! YOU'RE HENDERS, AREN'T YOU?
YES! I WAS BROUGHT HERE AGAINST MY WILL AND FORCED TO MAKE THIS ABOMINABLE CALCULATOR! THAT FIRE EXTINGUISHER SYSTEM WAS ONE OF MY IDEAS, I'M SORRY TO SAY...
YOU SEEM TO HAVE THOUGHT OF EVERY THING! NOW CAN YOU THINK OF A WAY TO DESTROY IT?
I'M NOT SURE! TRANSIVAC HAS ADDED SOME REFINEMENTS OF ITS OWN TO MY DESIGN! BUT...
HENDERS! LOOK OUT!
SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, THE MACHINE STRIKES OUT AT ITS CREATOR.

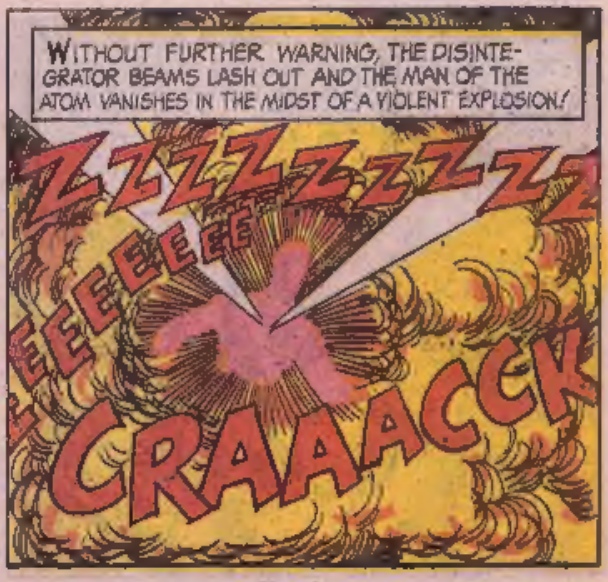

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE MAN OF THE ATOM HURLS HIMSELF AT THE ENGINEER, PUSHING HIM OUT OF THE PATH OF CERTAIN DEATH!
ZZZZZZZZZ
ZAPPP!
SORRY, HENDERS, I HAD TO MOVE FAST!
--AS I WAS SAYING, IF YOU COULD FREEZE THE MECHANISM SOMEHOW..
WHERE HEAT FAILED COLD MIGHT SUCCEED IT'S WORTH TRYING
SUMMONING HIS AMAZING NUCLEAR POWERS, SOLAR CONVERTS HIS BODY INTO ENERGY WHICH HE USES TO STOP THE MOLECULAR MOTION IN THE AIR AROUND HIM
QUICKLY THE ENTIRE COMPUTER BECOMES SOLIDLY ENCASED IN ICE WHICH FORMS IN THE WAKE OF THE RESULTING INTENSE COLD..

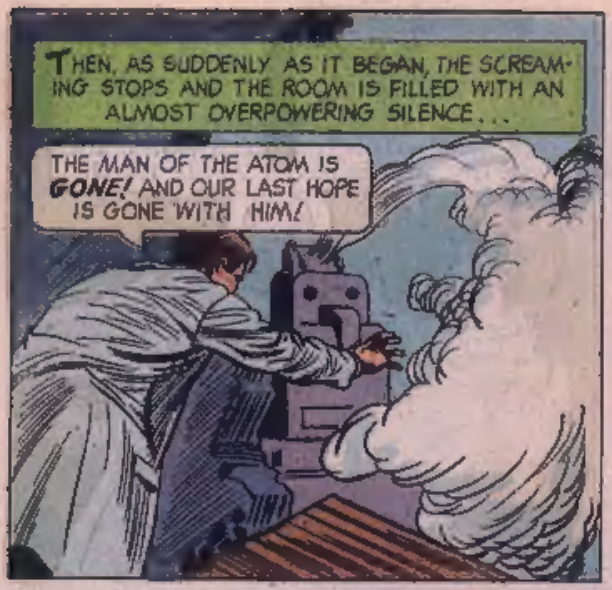
BUT ALMOST INSTANTLY, THE COMPUTER RESOLVES ITS PROBLEM AND USES PART OF ITS ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AS A DE-ICER...

I'M AFRAID TRANSIVAC IS INDESTRUCTIBLE! ALL THE ENERGY IT ABSORBED IN THE LAST TWO DAYS HAS MADE IT TOO POWERFUL...
SO THAT'S IT! YOUR MACHINE DOESN'T DESTROY MATTER, IT CONVERTS IT INTO USABLE ENERGY!

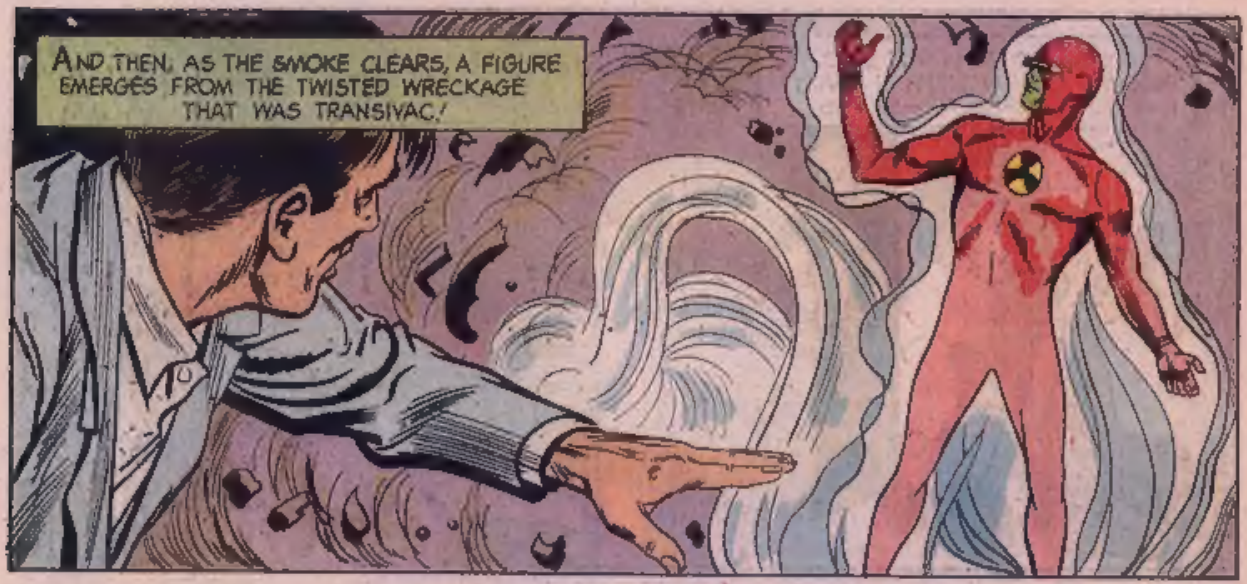

--THEN NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I'LL PROBABLY ONLY SUCCEED IN MAKING IT MORE POWERFUL! ---UNLESS...


SUDDENLY SOLAR'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED BY A VIOLENT SCREAMING SOUND FROM THE HUGE CALCULATOR...
OOOOEEEFFEEE


WITHOUT FURTHER WARNING, THE DISINTEGRATOR BEAMS LASH OUT AND THE MAN OF THE ATOM VANISHES IN THE MIDST OF A VIOLENT EXPLOSION!
ZZZZZZZZZZZ
EEEEEEEE
CRAAACCK


THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS IT BEGAN, THE SCREAMING STOPS AND THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH AN ALMOST OVERPOWERING SILENCE...
THE MAN OF THE ATOM IS GONE! AND OUR LAST HOPE IS GONE WITH HIM!

BUT THE SILENCE IS BRIEF! SUDDENLY, THE ROOM ROCKS IN THE WAKE OF A VIOLENT EXPLOSION!
BWUMPH


AND THEN, AS THE SMOKE CLEARS, A FIGURE EMERGES FROM THE TWISTED WRECKAGE THAT WAS TRANSIVAC!

YOU'RE SAFE! --BUT NOW?
YOU DESIGNED TRANSIVAC TO ABSORB ENERGY, BUT THE ENERGY IN MY BODY WAS TOO MUCH FOR IT! I TOOK A BIG CHANCE, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!

--WHAT ABOUT THE MAN WHO HAD ME KIDNAPPED?
HE BARGAINED WITH ME FOR HIS LIFE, BUT SOMEHOW I DOUBT HE'LL KEEP HIS END OF IT! HE'S PROBABLY MILES AWAY BY NOW, GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER FIGHT WITH THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

FISH

NUMBER 41

BARNACLES

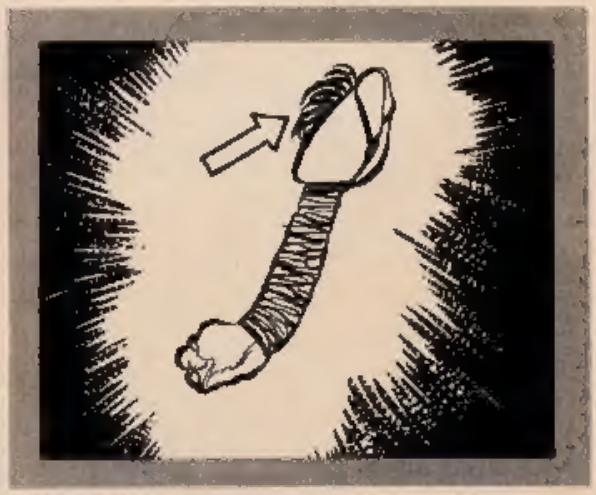
This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

The barnacle fastens itself to the bottom of a ship. They do no real damage to the ship but in numbers can slow the ship's progress.

Some Barnacles look flat and wide, others are tall and narrow. This depends on the amount of usable space around the "spot."

The Barnacle is an animal and likes to roam about. This traveling genus, that is known as Lepas, is found all over the world.

At birth it has one eye, three pairs of legs and just one shell. After several moultings there are two eyes, twelve legs and 2 shells.



The twelve legs are in-curving and they act as hands for the adult Barnacles. These extended appendages search water for food.

SOLAR PIN-UP